



February 27, 2017

Commander, 17th Coast Guard District (M)
PO Box 22517
Juneau, AK 99802
Attn: Lt. Patrick Grizzle
Inspections & Licensing

Dear Rear Adm. Michael McAllister:

The Alaska Chamber supports recertification of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC).

PWSRCAC has worked diligently with industry and regulators to ensure response readiness, evaluate risks, and propose solutions. We hope you will recertify PWSRCAC as the citizens' advisory group for Prince William Sound. The Alaska Chamber has been an active member of the advisory council for twenty-seven years, and we very much appreciate our involvement in PWSRCAC and the long-standing relationship created from that involvement.

That important work continues today in many different forms. Currently PWSRCAC is monitoring the marine services transition from Crowley Maritime to Edison Chouest Offshore as it proceeds through 2018 to ensure that the newest safety and high capability standards are maintained. A considerable amount of their time is taken up to monitor drills, exercises, and training events with PWSRCAC often times participating alongside the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the United States Coast Guard, and industry. As you know, as a part of their mandate, PWSRCAC reviews and comments on changes to oil spill prevention and response plans to providing meaningful input into the process.

Just piloted last year, PWSRCAC in partnership with Alyeska/SERVS staff has initiated a project to share the fishing vessel program's annual oil spill training with local citizens. PWSRCAC chartered a passenger vessel out of Seward which took over 90 local youth and residents to learn about SERVS' oil spill training for local fishermen and mariners. This project is being supported in future years in other communities within PWSRCAC's region due to its great success.

It's not only the long-standing work that PWSRCAC has done that leads us to support their recertification, but the new projects they're piloting to better serve their mission and the residents of Prince William Sound. If you have any questions, or need anything else from me, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curtis W. Thayer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO