

Homer Charter Association

3/10/2020

WHEREAS, the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill caused wide-spread environmental and economic damage to the Gulf of Alaska and its communities;

WHEREAS, after the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, citizens and the Alaska Legislature worked together to enact the strongest oil spill protection laws in the nation to keep our waters, beaches, fish and wildlife oil free;

WHEREAS, Alaskans expect to live, work and play in a healthy and pristine environment and depend on oil free beaches, waters, wildlife and seafood;

WHEREAS, the regulations have been revised on nine occasions over the past 30 years for clarification and streamlining, to make contingency planning and review less onerous, more predictable and expeditious;

WHEREAS, industry compliance with these laws is social license for economic development in Alaska, and industry has complied with these laws and regulations successfully for 30 profitable years;

WHEREAS, after the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, Congress cited complacency on the part of industry and regulators as a key contributing factor to the spill;

WHEREAS, combatting this complacency and rebuilding trust must involve the public, those with the most at risk in the event of a large spill, in decisions that affect the safe transportation of oil;

WHEREAS, Contingency Plans are industry's commitment to Alaskans that they are prepared to effectively respond in the event of a significant future catastrophic spill or situation;

WHEREAS, Contingency Plans are a critical component of ensuring the safe transportation, production and exploration of oil and represent rigorous but achievable standards;

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2019, the State of Alaska's Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation issued a public scoping notice seeking input on existing regulations and statutes and that his Department has identified regulations that can be eliminated or significantly reformed to reduce a perceived burden on industry and show Alaska is open for business;

WHEREAS, The Homer Charter Association believes regulatory review should benefit all businesses; from subsistence and food security to commercial fisheries and tourism, clean waters and coasts are vital to the state;

WHEREAS, rolling back or eliminating proven oil spill prevention and response requirements to reduce a perceived burden to industry transfers the risk and burden of another oil spill onto the backs of our communities, citizens, and environment;

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2019, Commissioner Jason Brune committed to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Board of Directors a fully transparent public review and consultation process;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner further informed the Board that the Department has no desire to whatsoever to roll back the environmental protections in place and that preparedness and protection are vital;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Homer Charter Association supports regulatory changes that would improve Alaska's spill response capability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer Charter Association will oppose any attempts to weaken or dismantle Alaska's oil spill prevention and response system as unacceptable.