

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 20-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORTING RETENTION OF EXISTING ALASKA LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE PREVENTION, RESPONSE, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, OVERSIGHT, AND MONITORING RELATED TO THE SAFE HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION OF OIL AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2019, the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Commissioner issued a public scoping notice seeking input from stakeholders, the public, and industry regarding potential revisions to Alaska's oil discharge prevention and contingency plan regulations (18 AAC 75, Article 4) and Alaska Statute 46.04 (AS 46.04), entitled Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Control; and

WHEREAS, the ADEC Commissioner has stated that Alaska's spill prevention and response statutes and regulations are "too burdensome" and "overly onerous;" and

WHEREAS, Alaska's oil spill statutes and regulations in place today were instituted in response to the catastrophic impacts of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, which resulted in the discharge of eleven million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound; and

WHEREAS, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill demonstrated the inability of the oil industry to regulate itself and the need for robust State laws to provide adequate protections against oil spills and ensure that adequate response capabilities are maintained to minimize the harm of oil spills when they do occur; and

WHEREAS, following the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Alaska implemented world-class oil spill prevention and response requirements to protect its people and its environment, as well as fishing, aquaculture, recreation, tourism, subsistence, and cultural interests; and

WHEREAS, reducing the currently mandated level of oil spill prevention and response standards and the opportunities for stakeholder participation in contingency plan review and approval would unreasonably increase the likelihood that another catastrophic oil spill will occur; and

WHEREAS, thirty years of profitable oil industry operations under robust oil spill prevention and response standards proves that the existing statutes and regulations are not unduly burdensome or in need of reform; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez, other Alaskan communities, the citizens of Alaska, and, Alaska's pristine environment are legally entitled to be protected from oil spills; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez is fully committed to protecting the economic and environmental wellbeing of its citizens and all Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated in this resolution as if set forth fully herein.

Section 2. The Valdez City Council strongly opposes any legislative or regulatory changes that erode oil spill prevention and response standards, reduce opportunities for public input and review, increase the risk of a catastrophic oil spill, or demonstrate complacency on the part of the oil industry and regulators.

Section 3. The Valdez City Council requests that ADEC provide full access to all comments and proposals regarding legislative or regulatory changes to Alaska's oil spill prevention and response statutes and regulations and identify any specific statutes or regulations that ADEC believes are "too burdensome" or "overly onerous."

Section 4. A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to ADEC.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 18th day of February 2020.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA



Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

