**Homer Charter Association**

**3/10/2020**

**WHEREA**S, the 1989 *E*x*xon Valdez* oil spill caused wide-spread environmental and economic damage to the Gulf of Alaska and its communities;

**WHEREAS**, after the *E*xx*on 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;

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

**WHEREA**S, 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;

**WHEREA**S, 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 *E*xx*on 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;

**WHEREA**S, 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;

**WHEREA**S, 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.