Dan O'Connor

Alaska State Statute 46.04 establishes a foundation that continues to distinguish Alaska, and particularly Prince William Sound, as having a world-class preparedness and response system. What legislative or regulatory changes are needed to streamline the process yet preserve and/or ensure the sustainability of precious resources in Prince William Sound with the transport of oil into the Gulf of Alaska? Asking me to comment on the voluminous regulations and guiding statutes without sharing which specific parts need reformation puts me at distinct disadvantage. Which Alaskans have stated that the contingency planning process is too burdensome and onerous for industry, that the current regulations are stale, and that ADEC has already identified a number of areas of the regulations that "can be either completely eliminated or significantly reformed to show that Alaska's open for business" without sharing any specifics? It would be extremely helpful to review ADEC's recommendations for improvements that can be implemented without compromising environmental protection. It could be perceived that rolling back requirements, weakening protections, and saving industry money at the expense of the coastal communities and the pristine environment of Prince William Sound is the hidden agenda.