

Kendra Zamzow

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I appreciate efforts to make regulatory language more clear and efficient, but not at the expense of weakening good regulations.

I object to language that would remove the current requirement for tankers in Prince William Sound to have equipment that ensures they are ready to be towed from the bow within 15 minutes. This should be not only required for tankers calling to the Port of Valdez, but should become a general requirement to ensure it is in place for tankers arriving in Bethel (particularly since the number of large fuel tankers will increase if the Donlin mine is opened) and if, in the future, tankers make ports of call in yet-to-be developed northwest Arctic ports.

Similarly, simulation exercises should not be reduced, but should be expanded to ports that see increases in fuel tanker traffic, particularly in locations such as the lower Kuskokwim where a spill could cause high impacts. Exercises should not be reduced in Cook Inlet or Prince William Sound. Note that the federal government's Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) has held lease sales to potentially open up federal waters of Cook Inlet to oil and gas drilling. Should this occur, there will be additional risk from underwater pipelines from platforms in addition to the existing risk from tankers.

Contingency plans should be reviewed by the local RCACs. This is an important part of their role. The work and influence of RCACs should not be reduced or weakened.

The lack of a major oil spill since the Exxon Valdez should not mean that we let our guard down. It is, instead, testimony to how well the oversight system is working. We know climate change will bring more powerful storms and more extreme weather, and eventually a rise in Alaska's population. We need to continue to be alert, practice, and prepare through regulation, company actions, and community commitment.

Please do not weaken the good regulations that are in place.

Sincerely, Kendra Zamzow Chickaloon, AK 99674 907.354.3886