



"Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers."

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## News Release

March 27, 2019

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### **Sen. Dan Sullivan introduces legislation to make major improvements to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund**

*Legislation includes enhancements supported by Prince William Sound RCAC*

Monday, the day after the 30th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Sen. Dan Sullivan introduced in the United States Senate legislation entitled the "Spill Response and Prevention Surety Act." This bill would reinstitute the financing rate for the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, establish a floor and ceiling for the Fund so as to ensure availability of funding resources to help respond to oil spills in all 50 States, provide for prevention funding grants and make other improvements to the Fund.

A delegation of board members and staff from the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council is currently in Washington, DC and provided a preliminary response to Sen. Sullivan on this very encouraging development. The trip is an annual visit for meetings on Capitol Hill, with the U.S. Coast Guard, with federal agencies that comprise the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research, the State of Alaska, and the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

As a citizens' organization authorized by statute after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the council had previously expressed to Sen. Dan Sullivan, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Rep. Don Young and other members of the House and Senate strong support for congressional authorization for certain important and needed improvements to the Fund. It was therefore very encouraging for council representatives to see this bill introduced in the Senate. While visiting Sen. Sullivan at the Capitol yesterday, the council expressed their appreciation for his work on this bill.

Council representatives are hopeful that the bill will be considered soon in the Senate and House, supported strongly across the nation, acted upon and enacted during this session of the 116th Congress. Council representatives in Washington intend to ensure the full membership of the council, spanning the entire Exxon Valdez oil spill region, will be briefed on the bill once they return to Alaska later this week. The council will then be able to provide Congress the

organization's views regarding any potential further recommended improvements to the bill as introduced for consideration.

The financing rate expired at the end of December 2018. It is therefore important that action be taken soon to reauthorize the financing rate and to make the other needed improvements to the Fund for the protection of navigable waters in every state, fish and wildlife and their habitats, local, state and regional economies and for the environment.

The council delegation meeting with congressional leaders in Washington this week included Amanda Bauer, president, representing the City of Valdez; Rebecca Skinner, board member, representing the Kodiak Island Borough; Robert Archibald, board member, representing the City of Homer; Mako Haggerty, board member representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough; Donna Schantz, executive director; and Joe Lally, director of programs. More information on the council can be found at [www.pwsrcac.org](http://www.pwsrcac.org).

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The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, with offices in Anchorage and Valdez, is an independent non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote environmentally safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and the oil tankers that use it. The council's work is guided by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and its contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The council's 18 member organizations are communities in the region affected by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, as well as aquaculture, commercial fishing, environmental, Native, recreation and tourism groups.

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