



February 15, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL:

ASSEMBLYCLERK@KPB.US

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

RE: Letter of Support for Ordinance 2022-46;
Exclusion of Tyonek from the Nikiski Advisory Planning Commission

Dear Assembly Members:

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) writes in support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Ordinance 2022-46 to modify the Nikiski Advisory Planning Commission (APC) boundary and to exclude the west side of the Cook Inlet from the Nikiski APC. Additionally, CIRI objects to the KPB Assembly decision to approve the Nikiski APC under Ordinance 2022-41.

CIRI owns over 180,000 acres within the 2022-41 APC boundary and is largest private landowner within the KPB. CIRI serves more than 9,000 Alaska Native shareholders by providing economically and socially through prudent stewardship of the company resources, including its lands.

The communities of Nikiski and Tyonek have acted independently and autonomously from one another since before Alaska became a territory. The inclusion of the west side of the Cook Inlet in the Nikiski APC, without notice or input from CIRI and Tyonek, completely disregards the area's largest stakeholders. The proposed area of the Nikiski APC is unprecedented at 13 times larger than any other existing APC within the KPB. The APC boundary under Ordinance 2022-41 does not provide local representation to the community of Tyonek and gives Nikiski unwarranted influence to determine the merits of development on private lands on the west side of the Inlet.

CIRI supports Ordinance 2022-46, which excludes the west side of the Cook Inlet from the Nikiski APC. CIRI also invites the KPB Assembly, Planning Commission, and Administration to reach out to CIRI for input and consultation when considering matters that would directly affect our significant lands holdings in Nikiski and on the west side of Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

COOK INLET REGION, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Settle".

Suzanne Settle
Vice President, Energy, Land and Resources