November 20, 2020

EVOS Trustee Council

4230 University Drive, Ste 220

Anchorage, AK 99508-4650

Dear EVOS Trustee Council Members,

At the October 14, 2020 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council Meeting, the Trustees approved four draft resolutions for public comment. The 60-day public comment period began on October 16, 2020 and closes December 16, 2020. Trustees also opposed a motion to support the “New Vision for EVOS: A Roadmap to Reshape the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill” proposal submitted by the EVOS Think Tank of Citizens.

[ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL] understands that the following four draft resolutions, if approved, would continue current “spend down” efforts for the remaining EVOS funding; allow funding to be spent outside of the spill-impacted areas; reduce opportunity for public participation; and further dissolve the Trustee Council:

1. Draft Resolution 20-A: Amendment of the 1994 Restoration Plan to eliminate the annual Trustee Council public meeting and funding process and change reporting schedules;
2. Draft Resolution 20-B: Change to procedures for approval of multi-year projects;
3. Draft Resolution 20-C: Combining habitat and research sub-accounts; and
4. Draft Resolution 20-D: Amendment of the 1994 Restoration Plan to incorporate an ecosystem approach to the oil spill boundary.

[ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL] is writing in support of the EVOS Think Tank of Citizens concept that identifies a path towards long-term endowments and research funding, while further serving spill-impacted communities in perpetuity. The Chugach Region communities, including those represented by this letter, were among those most devastated by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

Our spill-impacted region is still healing from unrecovered resources, the effects of lingering oil and continuing reverberations from the human and economic impacts of the spill. We owe it to our communities and important ecosystems to support the continued path towards restoration of natural resources and supporting the future of healthy communities, tribes and peoples.

It is our hope that the EVOS Trustee Council will seriously consider the Think Tank concept and alternatives that would provide continued funding in alignment with its important mission. We ask that they provide further opportunities for discussion in the interest of inclusiveness and transparency while serving communities and future generations within the spill-impacted areas.

Specifically, we believe that the above resolutions out for public comment are premature, and that any advancement of the agenda that these resolutions represent towards a spend down plan should be postponed until meaningful public participation and review of other options can be considered by community members in the spill-impacted area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE BLOCK]