

July 21, 1995

TO: Senator Stevens
Senator Murkowski
Congressman Young

FR: Rick Steiner, Cordova *Rick Steiner*

RE: suggested amendment to legislation lifting the oil export ban

Greetings from Prince William Sound. I just wanted to respectfully offer a suggestion for your consideration with regard to pending legislation that lifts the ban on oil exports from Alaska.

As you know, the issue of the adequacy of emergency towing and salvage capability for disabled tankers in Prince William Sound continues to be of great concern to residents of the region. The recently completed Disabled Tanker Towing Study found that the present tug complement available in the Sound would be incapable of rendering assistance to disabled, fully laden tankers in certain situations. This is a very serious concern to many residents of the region.

I would very much appreciate your consideration of introducing an amendment to the export legislation that would require the oil shippers to position two salvage vessels in Alaska that would be capable of providing emergency towing assistance to any laden tanker in any situation. One would be positioned somewhere in Prince William Sound, and one probably in Kodiak or Dutch Harbor to protect westward shores. These vessels should be demonstrated to have sufficient propulsion and steering characteristics (i.e., tractor tugs, etc.) to accomplish the task of disabled tanker assistance even in extreme weather.

Such an amendment would nicely complement Senator Murray's amendment 1106 to S395 requiring the positioning of a salvage vessel to protect the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the grounding of disabled, laden tankers.

A similar provision for Alaska would go a long way toward improving the safety of our oil transport system, to the benefit of the oil industry and other coastal residents. If I can be of any assistance in this endeavor, please let me know:

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cc PWS RCAC