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December 15, 2004

Admiral Thomas H. Collins
Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second St., SW
Washington, DC 20593

VIA Fax: 202-267-4158

Dear Admiral Collins:

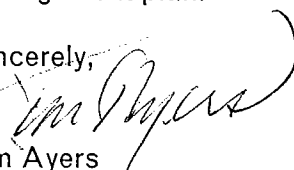
The recent wreck of the freighter Selendang Ayu off the coast of Alaska is deplorable. We have the deepest sympathy for the families that have lost loved ones. In addition, we are saddened for the people of Alaska and this nation who will suffer from yet another oil spill tragedy.

We understand that the National Transportation and Safety Board has undertaken a full investigation. But perhaps just as important is the critical need for an immediate risk assessment and risk management plan for the Aleutian Islands area. Clearly, what is in place is woefully inadequate. We can no longer accept the contention that the current risk assessment and management measures address the requisite protection of life and state and national resources.

The Aleutian Island Archipelago is one of the most vibrant, dynamic, productive and rare ocean environments in the world. With over 450 species of fish, more than 50 species of seabirds that migrate from all seven continents around the world, 25 species of marine mammals, and countless marine species yet to be described by science, this rich and unique sea world is an international treasure. It is a rare and wondrous place on the planet deserving of special protections. It is also an important part of the economic engine that drives the Alaskan fisheries that provide more than half of the nation's seafood.

It is now apparent that the kind of protection and response capability present in Prince William Sound is warranted elsewhere in Alaska. We request that you immediately undertake a risk assessment of the Aleutian Islands area and develop a comprehensive management plan.

Sincerely,



Jim Ayers
Director, Pacific Office

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Representative Don Young
Commissioner Kurt Fredricksson, DEC
Coast Guard Rear Adm. James Olson



CHLORINE BLEACH FREE