



**KAWERAK, INC.** • P.O. Box 948 • Nome, AK 99762



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January 5, 2015

Admiral Abel, Commander Seventeenth CG District  
Docket Management Facility (M-30)  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

**RE: Port Access Route Study: In the Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait, and Bering Sea  
PARS - USCG-2014-0941  
Request for Public Meeting**

Dear Admiral Abel:

Kawerak is the regional tribal consortium for the Bering Strait Region and is headquartered in Nome, Alaska ([www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org)). Our office received the "Notice of Study; request for comments", in the Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 234, dated December 5, 2014. We also received 4 maps of the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea which portrayed the proposed lane, several proposed precautionary areas, and 20 points which portrayed the lane corridor boundaries as it meanders from the Alaska Peninsula to the southern Chukchi Sea.

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC MEETING (1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015)**

Kawerak, respectfully requests that the US Coast Guard (USCG) hold a public meeting in the affected coastal communities of the route. Holding public meetings in at least the regional hubs will allow the public and stakeholders to become better informed and to provide comments regarding the PARS.

Public meetings are beneficial to fostering a meaningful dialogue and enhance participation between the public and the USCG. Alaska Native Organizations and other public interest groups are very concerned about the USCG's rules and policies regarding marine vessel traffic through the Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Bering Strait.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Austin Ahmasuk, Marine Program Advocate, at the above address or directly at (907) 443-4368 or e-mail [marine.advocate@kawerak.org](mailto:marine.advocate@kawerak.org). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK, INC.

Melanie Bahnke, President