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January 5, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

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Dear Gov. Walker;

I am profoundly disgusted by the way your administration chose to handle (i.e. drop the ball) the 2006 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Re-Opener Clause. As a former Mayor of Valdez, with personal experience of the spill, its long-term ramifications to the ecosystem and spill-affected communities, 26+ years of environmental litigation and nefarious back-room dealings with ExxonMobil, Alaskans thought we'd have an advocate for Prince William Sound in your administration. As a former member of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Regional Citizens' Advisory Council you are very aware of the large amount of still toxic, chronic, lingering oil remaining in Prince William Sound.

Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott is an Alaskan Native from Yakutat with deep ties to Prince William Sound. Again we thought that the Lt. Gov. would have advocated on behalf of Alaskan Native Tribes in their right to government-to-government consultation, or at the very least, the ability to comment on the State's decision to drop the Re-Opener Claim.

It is ironic that it was the profoundly conservative administration of former Gov. Frank Murkowski who originally made the 2006 claim. Yet this administration, one elected by mostly by Independents, Alaskan natives and the environmental community has been so egregiously ignored and slighted by the State's behavior in this case.

Gov. Walker, you stated your reason for running for office during your campaign: "I am running to ensure that Alaska regains control of our resources and our future without bowing to party or special interests." Surely the failure to advocate on behalf of the citizens of Alaska and Prince William Sound in allowing ExxonMobil to walk away from their court ordered, legally owed, reparations, is doing just that. \$92 million plus interest would have went a long way towards helping the economy of the spill affected community.

Because the State has determined the Sound to be 'recovered' regardless of the fact that many spill affected resources have not, and are not, recovering, Prince William Soundkeeper will continue our outreach work to educate the public on the Government's participation in this travesty of

Designated Member

environmental justice. We will highlight the areas of lingering oil in PWS in our outreach efforts, and will work to get the US Forest Service and other State and Federal entities to clearly mark all 72+ known lingering oil sites as toxic and dangerous to humans if exposed.

In the interest of public transparency and advocacy, this letter will also be sent to the media for public distribution.

Sincerely,

Kate McLaughlin, President & Executive Director
Prince William Soundkeeper
PO Box 1368
Cordova, AK 99574
907/424-1507

cc: Lt. Governor Byron Mallott