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Alaska State 28th Legislature  
House Resource Committee

RE: HB325

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in support of House Bill 325 – The Oil Spill Prevention Fund Bill currently up for consideration under the House Resource Committee.

Prince William Soundkeeper fully supports the Oil Spill Prevention Fund, understanding that those monetary resources are invaluable to protecting our ecosystem and the renewable natural resources that depend upon its lands and waters being clean and healthy. Prevention is always better than cleanup and remediation. An increase into the Fund through the raising of the surcharge to be collected on oil revenue is very needed and necessary.

The continuing need for oil spill prevention work and education is proven by the 25 year old lingering Exxon Valdez Oil Spill oil in Prince William Sound, which many of the younger generation seems to be unaware of the spill's long term, insidious impacts; offshore oil and gas drilling continuing to expand in Alaska; marine vessel traffic continues to increase; and the possibility of an Arctic shipping route in the near future. Prevention education and infrastructure is a necessity along our coastline and in our ports and harbors.

Please support House Bill 325 and fund to the fullest possibility the Oil Spill Prevention Fund.

Sincerely,

Kate McLaughlin, President & Executive Director  
Prince William Soundkeeper

cc: Senator Alan Austerman  
Representative Gary Stevens