

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2014

Rear Admiral Richard T. Gromlich
Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District
U.S. Coast Guard
915 Second Ave
Seattle, WA 98174
Via facsimile: 206-220-7092

Dear Admiral Gromlich:

In light of the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) recent decision to close the Air Facility in Newport, Oregon, effective December 2014, we are writing to formally invite you to attend the public meeting scheduled for **Monday October 20 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Oregon Coast Community College in Newport, Oregon**. If you are not able to attend, we ask that you send a senior representative from the Seattle district office in your place that can address the public as well as relay their concerns to you.

The coastal community felt denied any kind of opportunity to express an opinion on the closure. Rightfully so, there is anxiety over the impact on response times that this decision will produce. At a briefing held on Friday, October 10, 2014 in Washington, D.C. senior members of the USCG assured Oregon delegation staff that a senior member of the USCG Seattle district office would be participating in the public meeting to be held in Newport on Monday, October 20. We appreciate the commitment by the USCG to have senior staff from the district office present in order to provide the community with much needed information on the decision to close the Newport Air Facility and to explain the capabilities of the remaining USCG assets located in Newport and North Bend.

Newport is a "Coast Guard City" and we join the community in our respect for the work that the USCG does to protect mariners and public safety. However, we believe that the relationship between the USCG and the community of Newport is a partnership that should also be valued. Toward that end, we respectfully urge you to consider this invitation and the opportunity it provides for a discussion with concerned community members.

Sincerely,



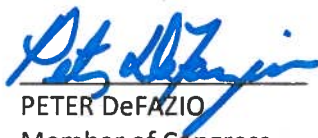
KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



RON WYDEN
United States Senator



JEFF MERKLEY
United States Senator



PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



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