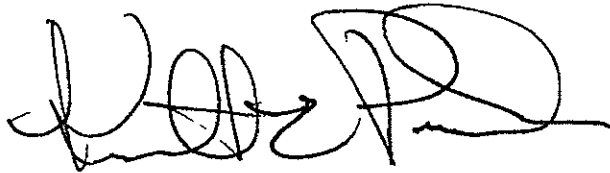


November 10, 2014

To: Admiral Paul Zukunft
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700
Washington, D.C. 20593-7000

From: Keith Paulson
P.O. Box 622
Waldport, OR. 97394



Re: Closure of Coast Guard SAR helicopter station in Newport, OR.

I am a life-long resident of Waldport, OR, a small Coastal Community 16 miles south of Newport. I wouldn't ordinarily get involved in an issue like this but a recent life-threatening incident made it very apparent to me that we continue to need the Coast Guard helicopter based in Newport.

I am a commercial dumponess crab fisherman who fishes in Alsea Bay near Waldport during September—November each year. Approximately 5-6 Commercial vessels and as many as 75 recreational boats participate on any one day.

About one month ago I was in the bay on an ebb tide fishing just inside the line of breakers that separates the bay from the ocean, when my outboard engine quit. I don't have a back-up engine. As I frantically tried to re-start the engine, it took only a few seconds for the ebb tide to carry my 22' wooden dory into the oncoming breakers. I turned on the bilge pump as several of the breaks half-filled my boat. I was Scared.

Keith Paulson

I grabbed my cell phone to dial 911 but I never had to make the call. The engine started and I was soon out of harms way.

It was a very, very close call for me and while I never required Coast Guard assistance, it was reassuring to know that the Newport-based helicopter would have been on the scene within minutes had I needed them.

So please reconsider your decision to close the Newport, OR. air station. A helicopter coming either North Bend or Astoria, both an hour away, would have been too late to save me had I gone into the water.

Thanks for your re-consideration of this very important issue.

11-11-14

Admiral Paul Zukunft
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW Stop 700
Washington, D.C. 20543-7000

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

I have been involved in the commercial fishing industry in Oregon and Alaska for the past 47 years, and currently own two large vessels that fish Alaskan waters. While I personally no longer actively fish commercially, I continue to be an avid ocean recreational fisherman out of Newport, OR., the location of one of your helicopter SAR bases slated for closure on December 15 of this year.

That is a decision with predictably disastrous consequences made even worse by the complete lack of opportunity for pre-decision public input. It wasn't until several local entities received a form letter from the Coast Guard with a stamped signature that any of us were even aware that the base was under consideration for closure let alone that the decision had already been made.

You didn't feel it was important enough to notify local citizens and the local marine boating community that the closure was under consideration? Well you were dead wrong!

WE fought hard in the late 1980's to get the base in Newport and we will fight harder to keep it. Why? Because if the station is closed, it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when lives will be lost at sea on the central Oregon coast. STATION North Bend or Seaside Astoria, both an hour away, won't be able to get there in time.

Please reconsider your decision on this issue. Its important to the safety of every mariner on the central Oregon coast that this helicopter SAR base remain open.

Thank You-

Sincerely,

Bob Jacobsen

P.O. Box 507

Wardport, OR, 97394

541-961-0748

fairweatherfish@icloud.com

Copy

*Claire E. Good
1380 SW Ocean Terrace
Waldport, OR 97394-9622*

November 18, 2014

Admiral Paul Zukunft
Commandant, US Coast Guard Hdqtrs.
2100 2nd Street, SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000


Re: Newport, Oregon Coast Guard Helicopter Facility

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

As a concerned resident of Waldport, Oregon (18 miles south of Newport, OR.) I am writing this letter to you, asking that you allow the US Coast Guard Helicopter Facility to remain in full service in Newport, OR. Within the fourteen years that I have lived on the coast, there have been numerous occasions where our Newport Coast Guard Helicopter Service has saved the lives of fishermen and quite a few people on the beaches from drowning from sneaker waves, high tides and other hazards associated with the Pacific Coast.

If we had not had the local helicopter service and had to depend on help from as far as an hour away those lives would have been lost. Therefore, I am asking that you either cancel your decision to close our Helicopter facility or postpone the closure for at least a minimum of six months, until July, 2015.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this critical matter.



Claire E. Good
Resident, Central Oregon Coast

Cc: Newport Fishermen's Wives, Assn.

November 13, 2014

Admiral Paul Zukunft
Commandant
US Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd ST
SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Admiral:

Please do not close the US Coast Guard station in Newport, Oregon.

Most of the recreational fishing, whale watching, surfing, beach and tourist activities for the Oregon coast occurs in the Central section of the coast, where the coast guard station is located.

My husband and I own a 2nd home in Pacific City, north of Newport. We purchased the home in December 2011. Since that time, Pacific City has become increasingly popular for water sports such as surfing, SUP boards, ocean kayaking as well as the traditional dory boat fishing. We rarely heard emergency sirens when we first bought the house. This past summer I swear we heard sirens almost daily.

Newport's Coast Guard helicopter flies over Pacific City daily. We feel fortunate to know that we have a fast emergency response team available for ocean related accidents.

It does not make sense to close a coast guard section servicing the busy section of the Oregon coast.

We hope that you will find the support and resources to keep the Newport US Coast Guard Station open.

Thank you,



Robyn C. Holdman
PO Box 1958
Sisters, OR 97759

C: Newport Fishermen's Wives Assn.