

Cenaco Hospitality Systems
Hospitality Facilities Planning and Operating Systems
Healthy Cooking Research and Development

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Portland, OR 97236

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E-mail: pennwest@comcast.net

November 5, 2014

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

Dear Admiral Zukunft,

Pursuant to the pending closing of the life saving helicopter facility in Newport , Oregon, I believe the following comments are in order:

In the Hotel and Restaurant industry the first three rules are: Location. Location. Location. As a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Skills and Seamanship Course, and a former powerboat owner, I was taught the importance of boating safety, which also included the mandatory importance of rescue. Taking these factors into consideration the plan to close the above mentioned helicopter rescue station at Newport, Oregon is irresponsible, and violates everything the United States Coast Guard is supposed to represent.

There are certain priorities that preclude any consideration for budget constraint, and this is one. It becomes a matter of compassion and integrity for the central coast of Oregon.

Considering the location of this station, the amount of boating and recreational rescues performed in the past, my knowledge of power boat operation, respect for the powers of nature, and my water rescue training, which includes prior Red Cross Lifeguard certification, I firmly believe closing this station is ill-advised and will discredit the United States Coast Guard.

Sincerely,

Homer R. Reese, Jr.
Independent Writer and Project Coordinator

Oct 31, 2014

Copy
mailed
10/31/14

Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant

Dear Sir:

Please reconsider the closing of the helicopter facility in Newport, Oregon.

My family members launch a dory out of Pacific City, Oregon. On board are my grandsons, aged 11 to 16. It is impossible to keep growing boys in survivor suits. The cold water makes it impossible for them to survive a long time in the water waiting for rescue.

The Coast Guard presence is one of the most visible, valuable and appreciated result of our tax dollars that we know affects our lives on a daily basis.

Please give our commercial, pleasure and sport boaters a chance to survive.

Thank you



Julie Streeter

23890 SW Mtn Creek Rd

Sherwood, Or 97140

kjstreeter@frontier.com

Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant,
US Coast Guard Headquarters,
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700,
Washington, DC 20593-7000

October 31, 2014

Dear Admiral Zukunft:


I live in the little coastal community of Depoe Bay heavily used by both charter fishing and whale-watching boats and those who trailer their boats here to have easy access to the ocean. The services of the Coast Guard helicopter are essential to these mariners, as they are to the sport and commercial fishermen in Newport, Pacific City and Florence, all served by the helicopter based in Newport.

As we saw earlier this month, mariners are not the only ones that are served by the U.S. Coast Guard. Five people are alive today because of the quick availability of the helicopter and the skilled crew which plucked people off a rock getting swamped by huge waves. There would not have been time for the helicopter from Coos Bay, Oregon the next nearest station to help.

If cost is the main issue, reimbursement of the costs for rescue would be a small price to pay, as is done now on Mt. Hood and other places. What is essential is that the helicopter remain in Newport and I implore you to reconsider your decision to close this station.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

 Ms. Fran Recht
P.O. Box 221
Depoe Bay, OR 97341
541-765-2234

- COPY -

PO BOX 219
SEAL ROCK, OR 97376-0219
10-31-2014

ADM. PAUL ZUKUNFT, COMMANDANT
US COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS
2100 2nd ST. SW STOP 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7000

DEAR ADMIRAL ZUKUNFT

THE US COAST GUARD HAS DONE AN ADMIRABLE AND REMARKABLE JOB IN SEARCH AND RESCUE AND ASSURING THE SAFETY AND LIVES ON THE CENTRAL OREGON COAST. REMOVING THE HELICOPTER BASED IN NEWPORT AND REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS BASED IN NORTH BEND, OREGON WILL SEVERELY JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY OF THIS REGION AND, ALSO, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. THE COLD TEMPERATURE OF OUR WATERS MAKES A ONE HOUR RESPONSE TIME FOR EMERGENCY RESCUE EXTREMELY INADEQUATE.

NEWPORT, OREGON IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING PORTS ON THE OREGON COAST. IT IS THE NEW HOME OF THE NOAH FLEET, THE HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER AND A VERY LARGE FISHING AND PLEASURE BOAT PRESENCE. OUR RUGGED AND MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN HAS BEEN THE SITE OF NUMEROUS SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR THE COAST GUARD HELICOPTER.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE DECISION TO REMOVE THE HELICOPTER BE REVERSED.

SINCERELY,
Lawrence T. Schwartz, P.A.D.
LAWRENCE T. SCHWARTZ, P.A.D.

PS: I UNDERSTAND YOUR BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS
WHAT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND IS PLACING THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A COAST GUARD SMALL ARMS
SHOOTING RANGE AT THE ~~same~~ COST
OF MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AT
A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN THE POTENTIAL
LIFE SAVING BASING OF A COAST GUARD
HELICOPTER ON THE OREGON COAST.

LTS

copy of
letter
sent

To: Adm. Paerl Zukunft

Nov. 3, 2014

As a former fisheries observer and NOAA scientist working out of Newport, Oregon, I am concerned about the recent decision to move helicopter services out of Newport. As you know, Newport is one of the major fishing & marine research ports on the Oregon coast. Several of my colleagues & friends still go to sea out of Newport and it is vital to keep coast guard services in that area. During my 5 years working at sea out of Newport, I can recall several emergency situations where the close response of the Newport Coast Guard station saved many lives.

PLEASE leave the station open or at a minimum, delay the closure for 6 months to give the local community time to properly address the issue. **THANK YOU** for reading my letter! This decision affects an entire

community, region, & economy. You don't know how much the Coast Guard is needed, respected, and appreciated in Newport!

With respect,

Carrie Johnson

P.O. Box 1743

Tahoe City, CA 96145

Diana F. Sears
20125 HWY 101 So
Cloverdale, Or 97112

November 8, 2014

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

Discontinuation of the Coast Guard Headquarters in Newport, Oregon, overlooks the high use of our coastal waters and beaches for fishing, boating, surfing, para sailing and general enjoyment by native Oregonians and our visitors.

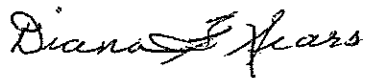
Response time to this area from Astoria or Coos Bay by helicopter is too long for effective rescue on our waters and beaches along the north central coast.

Please delay closure until extensive study has been made.

In my view, my fishing and boating family as well as local members of emergency services drastically need viable support from the US Coast Guard.

Yours truly,

Diana F. Sears



cc: Newport Fishermen's Wives Assn
POB 971 Newport, OR 97365

Building healthier communities together

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

Dear Admiral Zukunft,

As the President and CEO of Samaritan Health Services, the parent organization overseeing Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport, Oregon, as well as the nearest Level II trauma center in Corvallis, Oregon, I would like to express my deep concern regarding the decision to close the U.S. Coast Guard's Newport Air Facility.

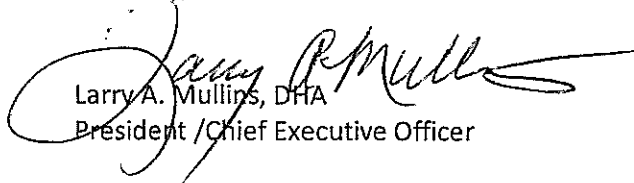
Knowing that saving those in peril is at the core of what our organizations do, my hope is that after hearing pleas from so many in the community that consideration will be given to retracting the decision to close the facility. Or at least push out the current closure date by six months rather than two weeks as recently announced. More time is needed to better assess the effect this closure would have on Newport residents and visitors.

Leaving this community dependent upon on air rescue services, which are at a minimum one-hour away and already covering large areas, would literally leave them stranded.

More often than not, it appears to me that rescues in coastal waters are more reliant upon air support. Time is of the essence when responding to citizens in danger, especially those exposed to frigid waters, swift current and extreme elements. If air rescue services are more than an hour away, those situations where services are needed in minutes, not hours, become tragic headlines that we would all prefer not to read.

Please, for the community, do not close the Newport Air Facility. If you must still consider a closure, please allow us to join the conversation so we can help identify a plan to serve our community in the best manner possible and not leave them stranded.

Sincerely,



Larry A. Mullins, DHA
President / Chief Executive Officer

✓CC: Newport Fishermen's Wives Association

copy

November 8, 2014

Dear Adm. Zukunft

I am writing to request a delay on the removal of the rescue helicopter from Newport, Oregon. As I understand it; the problem is a reduction in your budget. I certainly hope you are able to increase your budget under the new congressional leadership. This seems like a truly bipartisan issue that could be resolved. The Coast Guard deserves an increased budget for interdiction of drug shipments, national security issues and helping to preserve the lives of hard working fishermen.

Sincerely,

Kirk Rensmeyer

2752 NW Taylor
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
krensmey@gmail.com

P.S. Glad I don't have to pronounce "Zukunft"

Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant

US Coast Guard Headquarters

2100 2nd St. SW STOP

Washington, DC 20593-7000

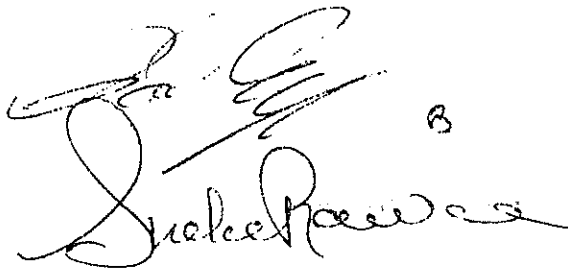
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Dear Sir,

My husband and I live on the Oregon Coast, Seal Rock, to be precise. We request that the US helicopter will remain with the Coastguard in Newport. This helicopter is important to us, and vital for our safety.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Eisley and Ineke Rawie". There is a small letter "B" written to the right of the signature.

Paul Eisley and Ineke Rawie

PO Box 448, 10914 NW Pacific Coast Highway

Seal Rock, OR 97376

To Adm. Paul Zukunft,

Please don't take the Coast Guard helicopter away from Newport, Oregon.

The lives of my two nephews along with many many others could be lost without it. It just doesn't make sense...Newport needs that helicopter more than the government needs to save money. There is so much waste in DC, surely you can find another way!

Thank you,

Lynn Engle

November 2, 2014

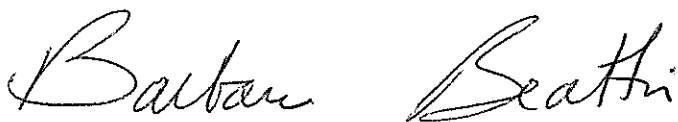
To the honorable Adm. Paul Zukunft Commandant
US Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to request that the Newport Oregon Coast Guard station be left as is with a helicopter to patrol our Oregon coastline. My family owns property at Pacific City near Cape Kiwanda. We fished there for many years launching into the surf at the cape. We have many friends and neighbors who continue to do the same. Knowing the Coast Guard is available to help us in an emergency is reassuring. Our fishing fleet of dorys are only 17-20 feet long, we launch into the surf on the protected side of the cape. The dory fleet has been existence for almost 100 years. We all know and have experienced an ocean that can turn upside down quickly. Rescue is often done by other fishermen but not always possible. The Coast Guard has aided us numerous times saving lives. Not only assisting when fishermen are in desperate need, the Coast Guard has aided hikers, kayakers, sail boarders, surfers, swimmers....it is a busy place! More and more people are enjoying the ocean there and rely on fishing for livelihood and other recreation. Closing the helicopter base when more people are visiting doesn't make sense.

Today I read about the 4 crab fishermen who died while crabbing off Bodega Bay, California. One man was rescued clinging to a rock by the county helicopter. I empathize for the families and fear we will experience a similar tragedy with a worse outcome because we do not have the luxury of Tillamook county helicopter rescues. I am not even sure Tillamook has helicopter! Pacific City only has a small emergency unit two trucks and maybe a boat. Our area is very remote however all year we see a large influx of people coming to fish, crab, kayak, hike, swim, surf etc. Our options for emergency assistance out at sea or in the river are extremely limited. Please reconsider and keep the Newport base open. The small communities along the northern and central Oregon coast rely on the Coast Guard!!

Thank you for reading my letter. Respectfully,



Barbara Beattie
39550 SE Alder St
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Sharon E. Streeter
10477 SE Waverly Court #1001
Milwaukie Oregon, USA 97222
503-305-6926 agnesjames@earthlink.net

November 3, 2014

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

re: Newport, Oregon helicopter rescue facility

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

The recent decision by the United States government to close helicopter rescue service to the central Oregon coast astonishes me and others who know how treacherous these waters are for people in trouble. Commercial fishing has been identified as one of the most dangerous jobs, resulting in too many deaths every year. Newport is a center for such an industry. Newport depends on helicopter rescue.

If money is the issue, I ask you how this nation can be spending billions on U.S. military activity overseas to kill people, but we can't find the funds to save people on our own shores.

The need is huge.

As you can see by my mailing address, I do not live on the Oregon Coast. But I spend a great deal of time here. I have owned a home just north of Depoe Bay since 1972. Two women drowned on the beach near my place during heavy seas and high tides. I knew of the couple swept away from the jetty in Newport. Only a month ago, five people were airlifted from a precarious cliff. Without helicopter access, their lives would be lost, as well. Capsized boats are too numerous to mention. Come for the Fleet of Flowers on Memorial Day to learn about those we have lost in these waters. Or may I suggest you take a walk along the Fishermens Memorial Walk on the bayfront. Tiles placed in the walk represent hundreds of lives lost at sea. What they don't tell us is the ones who were saved, the ones for whom an immediate response by helicopter was crucial.

This area supports a large tourist industry, sports and commercial fishing, and a marine science center with research and educational programs that take students and staff onto the ocean. NOAA is now based in Newport. Perhaps to those of you in Washington, D.C., ours is a small community. Count the miles along the coast, tally the figures of those who use our ports in Depoe Bay and Newport, and reconsider your decision.

We are proud to have a Coast Guard station in Depoe Bay. We have been grateful for the helicopter rescue operation. It is a vital component of life at the coast. I ask that you find a way to continue its existence.

I have been told that there is a possibility that this decision may be delayed so that coastal people can better address this need. The best solution would be to keep the helicopter program alive. Second best is to delay closure until all have reported in.

Thank you for considering maintaining the helicopter rescue program in Newport.

Yours truly,

Sharon E. Streeter

✓ cc: Newport Fishermen's Wives Assn., P.O. Box 971, Newport, Oregon 97365
cc: kgreenwood@portofnewport.com
cc: Elizabeth Larocque: crayonne180@yahoo.com
cc: Phillip Johnson: orshores@teleport.com

Dear Admiral Paul Zukunft,

As someone who has sailed both in the commercial fishing fleet and in the research fleet out of Newport Oregon for almost thirty five years, I asked that you reconsider the closing of the helicopter station there. I understand budgets, we all have them and have to follow them, but there has to be some other place the Coast Guard can save money then by shutting down such an important piece of Coast Guard safety equipment. The Coast Guards presence means so much to the whole community. I believe you would be hard pressed to find someone who does not have at least a loved one or a friend that sails out of Newport. We need to find a way to keep the helicopter stationed in Newport.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Captain Rick Verlini

RV Point Sur

541 961 3037

Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant
US Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000

November 1, 2014

Sir,

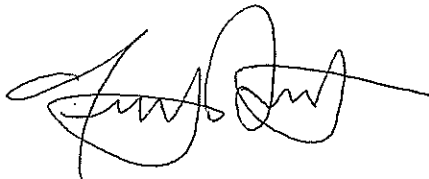
My name is Tracy Burt and I'm a police officer with the Port of Portland Police Department. Twelve years ago, before I moved to Portland, I worked for six years with the Lincoln City Police Department. As you know, Lincoln City, Oregon shares a 7 mile border with the Pacific Ocean.

Prior to my experiences as a police officer I grew up in Newport. Newport, Oregon is also located on the beach. Throughout my life I have had a front row seat for many of the emergencies that have occurred on the ocean. I have seen the Coast Guard helicopter quickly respond to multiple incidents.

The crew has been responsible for saving many commercial fishermen and sportsmen. Recently, they assisted tourists who had been trapped by the incoming tide. Simply put, increasing the helicopter's response time one hour will cause deaths on the Oregon Coast. The Pacific Ocean is cold and although they should be prepared, not every citizen is equipped with a survival suit or life preserver.

I hope to commend you in the future for saving lives. Please keep the helicopter in Newport.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy S. Burt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ofc. Burt, Tracy S. #25649
Port of Portland Police Department
7000 NE Airport Way
Portland, Or. 97218

COPY

Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant U.S.C.G HQ.
2100 2nd St, SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Sir:

11-01-2014

I am writing to you today regarding the potential loss of our Coast Guard helicopter station at Yaquina Bay, Newport, OR 97365. As a former Fisher I know first hand how important it is to keep our helicopter station in Newport, OR.

As you know, Newport is centrally located along the Oregon Coast. Aside from commercial fishing we are also a hub for sport fishing and have recently become a home port for NOAA research facilities.

Although we have two other Coast Guard stations with helicopters in Oregon, they are stationed at the north and south of Newport. When a disaster occurs, time is our worst enemy. Given the volume of traffic in and out of Yaquina Bay, it makes no sense to close the helicopter base. In addition to the aforementioned water related uses, we will soon be shipping logs from Newport and with a little luck will be hosting tour ships. If Newport/Yaquima Bay hopes to compete on the world stage we must be able to provide a safe port for our visitors as well as our local commercial fishers.

I ask you to re-evaluate the decision to remove helicopter service in Yaquina Bay, OR.
Sincerely, Christy GILMARTIN.

November 3, 2014

Adm Paul Zukunft Commandant (CG-00)
US Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 7000
Washington DC 20593-7000

Re: Scheduled Closure of Coast Guard Air Station, Newport, Oregon

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

I am writing to urge you to please reconsider the scheduled closure of the Coast Guard air station in Newport, Oregon.

Our community has the highest regard for the U.S. Coast Guard. Men and women from the Coast Guard have been active members of our community for years.

We are located on the central Oregon coast and our fleet operates in the cold, treacherous waters of the Pacific Northwest. We are a deep water port and the home port for some 250 commercial fishing vessels, the *new* NOAA Western Pacific Fleet, the OSU Marine Science Center, and thousands of recreational boats from the state and surrounding regions.

The station was established in 1986 because of lives lost back then due, in part, to the time it took to get the Coast Guard helicopter on scene. The national standard does not take into account survival rates in the Pacific Northwest's frigid, turbulent waters. Here minutes count. In an hour, you are searching for a body. The current national standard is an unbelievable four hours. Even the average one hour flight time from No Bend means certain death for some of our fishermen and other mariners.

Here along the coastal cities of Lincoln City, Neskowin, Pacific City, etc., the Coast Guard surveillance is critical for the safety of our residents. Our beaches are subject to violent riptides. One minute a person is walking along the beach and the next is caught by a sneaker wave and pulled out to sea. The influx of visitors, unfamiliar with this danger, can turn a vacation to tragedy. The Newport Coast Guard is our only hope for rescue.

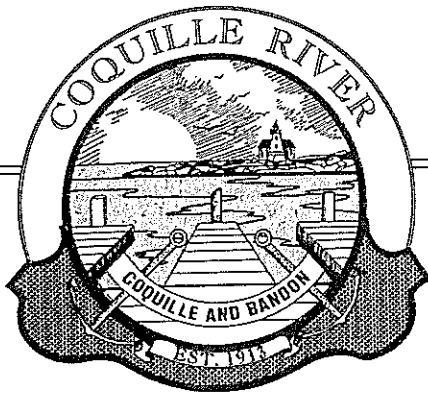
Pacific City is also the home of the dory fleet, and recreational fishing spot for hundreds of fishermen.

Keeping our little air station open is a crucial part of our overall marine safety strategy. Closing the station is not cost effective under any rational scenario.

We stand by ready, willing and able to be of assistance and will do anything it takes to help make the reversal of this decision a priority.

Thank you for your consideration,
Richard & Patty Albright
P O Box 426, Neskowin, OR 97149

Cc: Newport Fishermen's Wives Assn., P.O. Box 971, Newport, Oregon 97365



PORT OF BANDON

P.O. BOX 206 • BANDON, OR 97411 • (541) 347-3206 • FAX (541) 347-4645

October 31, 2014
Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Admiral Zunkunft:

Even as a small coastal port in Oregon, we rely and appreciate the Coast Guard's presence at our port and are grateful for the seasonal coverage we receive.

The Port of Newport is a dynamic port and home to a very large and very active commercial and sport fishing fleet. Having a lifesaving helicopter stationed in Newport is the difference between life and death, it is that simple. Unlike other coastlines in the U.S., Oregon's access to the Pacific is in crossing breaking river bars. Water temperatures in the Pacific Northwest provide human life only minutes to live. A helicopter from Astoria or Coos Bay/North Bend responding to a search and rescue mission off Newport, is a death sentence for certain.

I hope you will do everything possible to leave the station open, or at a minimum, delay the closure for six months to give the Newport community time to research and address the issue.

Thank you for your time, please do what you can, lives depend on it.

Best regards,

Gina Dearth, general manager
PORT OF BANDON

Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant

US Coast Guard Headquarters;

Dear Adm. Zukunft;

I want to ask you to not close the Coast Guard St. at Newport, Oregon. My son was based at Coos Bay St. and stood duty quite a bit at Newport. He stated several times of how important it was that the coast guard was on duty around the clock. This is a busy port and many lives have been saved due to them being there on duty and being able to be right on the spot if trouble arises in the waters. They have also been needed inland. This would have been a very bad turn of events if the coast guard had not been close and could respond sooner. Again I urge you to take a long, hard look at the need to keep the station open, as lives would have a better chance of them being there close at hand.

Sincerely, Frances Chambers

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

Dear Sir,

This letter is to ask you to leave the helicopter station in Newport, Oregon, open.

'Safety trumps everything.' That is what the Coast Guard told us in their open forum here in Pacific City, Oregon, (home of the dory fleet), a few months ago. The forum was with regard to the controversy over bell-buoy vs. horn-buoy off our coast. Several residents thought the horn-buoy intrusive but in the name of safety the Coast Guard opted for the horn-buoy.

The Coast Guard helicopter has provided us immense safety because of their response time from the coastal city of Newport. We have hundreds of dory fishermen who will be put more at risk with the relocation of this facility, not counting the many tourists who visit the coast and participate in water activities.

Please reconsider this decision.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter,

Bill Hite
34340 Brooten Rd
PO Box 566
Pacific City, Oregon 97135

Joannah Ball
140 Elm St. #2
Cambridge, MA.
02140

October 31, 2014

Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant
US Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700
Washington, DC
20593-7000

Dear Admiral Zukunft,

I am writing to urge you to **keep the Coast Guard helicopter in Newport, Oregon**. I grew up in Newport with a healthy fear of the incredible strength of the frigid Pacific Ocean, and it was always a comfort to see the helicopter flying near the beach, knowing that its presence was saving lives all along the coast. For a town in which commercial fishing, research and other marine activities are so central to our way of life, it is a crying shame to deprive Newport of its life-saving helicopter.

It is quite literally the difference between life and death. Please leave the station open.

Sincerely,

Joannah Ball

November 03, 2014

Admiral: U.S. Coast Guard

I am writing to ask you to please keep the lifesaving helicopter facility in Newport, Oregon open. This is a very busy port and help may be needed quickly.

If you can't see your way to keep it open, I would request that you, at the very least, keep it open for a period of six months or more. This could give Newport time to explore other lifesaving options.

Thank you for listening.
Sincerely → Diane Holmes
25 Summit Ave.
Medford, OR 97501