

Resolution 2014-M~~2~~²*

**OPPOSING CLOSURE OF THE UNITED STATE COAST GUARD HELICOPTER AIR
RESCUE FACILITIES AT NEWPORT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard first stationed a helicopter in Newport in 1987;
and

WHEREAS, the decision to bring a helicopter to the Central Coast was the result of years of concerted effort by the Newport Fishermen's Wives and other community members working with local, state and federal elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the campaign to bring the helicopter to Newport was the result of concern over the safety of commercial fishermen, loggers, recreational boaters, and thousands of visitors on the cold and treacherous waters of the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Newport and the Central Coast are the hub of one of the most productive commercial fishing fleets in the world and a very active charter fleet, and a center for marine research and educational efforts; and

WHEREAS, removal of the helicopter services reduces key lifesaving resources along the entire Oregon coast; and

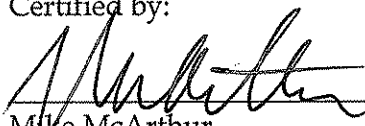
WHEREAS, the mission statement of the United States Coast Guard is to provide for "the wellbeing, general safety, security, and interests of the citizens of the United States"; and

WHEREAS, the announcement by the United States Coast Guard that it will close the helicopter rescue air facility at the Newport Municipal Airport, effective December 15, 2014, imperils the safety of citizens and runs contrary to the United States Coast Guard's mission statement;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Association of Oregon Counties, representing all 36 counties of the State of Oregon, calls on the United States Coast Guard to reverse this decision and ask for the assistance of all local, state and federal officials in this task.

Adopted November 20, 2014
By vote of the AOC Membership

Certified by:


Mike McArthur
Executive Director