

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
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TTY Oregon Relay Service

October 8, 2014

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

RE: Closure of the United States Coast Guard Helicopter Air Rescue Facility at
the Newport Municipal Airport

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

We oppose the closure of the US Coast Guard's helicopter air rescue facility at the Newport Municipal Airport for many reasons.

The United States Coast Guard first stationed a helicopter in Newport in 1987 as a result of years of concerted effort by the Newport Fishermen's Wives and other community members working with local, state and federal elected officials. The community was concerned by the numerous deaths of commercial fishermen and recreational boaters on the cold and treacherous waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The decision to relocate the rescue helicopter to North Bend, more than an hour's flight time away from Newport will not only result in less protection of the citizens and visitors to Lincoln County, but also to people who live along Tillamook County's southern coast and commercial and recreational fishermen all along our coast. Beach goers get washed out to sea, hikers fall off cliffs and in July the Coast Guard helicopter rescued an ocean kayaker off Cascade Head.

In the frigid waters of the Pacific a rescue helicopter more than an hour away means death for those at sea. That is why the rescue helicopters in Lincoln, Tillamook County and Clatsop County stand by to assist each other if one helicopter is involved in a rescue mission.

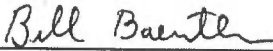
Admiral Paul Zukunft
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The mission statement of the United States Coast Guard is to provide for "wellbeing, general safety, security, and interests of the citizens of the United States". The announcement by the United States Coast Guard that it will close the helicopter rescue air facility at the Newport Municipal Airport, effective November 30, 2014, imperils the safety of citizens and runs contrary to the United States Coast Guard's mission statement.

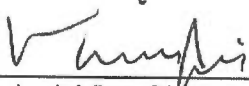
Please, we ask that you find a way to continue the operation of the US Coast Guard air rescue facility at the Newport Municipal Airport. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

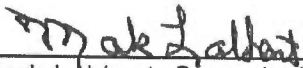
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



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Tim Josi, Vice Chairperson



Mark Labhart, Commissioner