



Sent VIA Email

November 3, 2014

TO: Senators Merkley and Wyden; Representatives Blumenaur, Bonamici, Defazio, Schrader and Walden

The Depoe Bay Near Shore Action Team (NSAT) was formed in 2005 to provide a voice for the protection of our near shore ocean and maintaining the benefits we receive from our ocean. Depoe Bay is home to the largest charter fleet on the Oregon coast and hosts a large number of recreational sailors. The Depoe Bay NSAT, charter operators, and boat captains are very concerned about the closure of the USCG Air Station at Newport Oregon and the reduction of the USCG coastal helicopter fleet. The loss of this valuable and necessary first responder resource can have serious and perhaps tragic consequences should one of those many boats using Oregon's central coast ocean experience a problem at sea from which it cannot recover.

The USCG and the services it provides are greatly appreciated by all of us who live and work on and along the ocean. Their dedication to service and willingness to protect our harbors and oceans and place their lives at risk to rescue others cannot be questioned. The failure of those agencies and departments responsible for adequately funding the USCG to perform their mission and then requiring the USCG to further cut back by removing people and equipment from a life-saving service is unconscionable. Having to depend on USCG helicopters from Astoria and North Bend Air Stations adds an unacceptable and life threatening delay in responding to emergencies at sea and along shore on the central Oregon coast.

The Depoe Bay Near Shore Action Team urges the members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation to take whatever steps available to halt the inadequate funding of the USCG and the requirement to further cut back necessary personnel and equipment.

Sincerely,


Loren Goddard, Chairman
Depoe Bay Near Shore Action Team