



# Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Dennis L. Dotson, Sheriff

"The only limits are those of vision."

Administration

April 16, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The beautiful Oregon coast attracts millions of visitors every year. The majority of those individuals have no idea of the power and danger that exists in the frigid waters and hazardous rocks offshore. Closure of the Air Facility at Newport will have lasting, negative consequences for this area.

Law enforcement plays an active role in the rescue of lost hikers, injured loggers, stranded fishermen and many others in distress. When the rescue must be conducted in challenging terrain and rough waters, the Coast Guard helicopter plays a significant part in the successful conclusion of these events. Some areas simply cannot be reached by land or water, so the helicopter becomes the only resource to save lives.

Emergency responders knowingly put themselves at risk to save the lives of others. Our agencies work together to reduce those risks to personnel by combining resources and responding expeditiously to calls for assistance. The Coast Guard has always been an important partner in our operations. The loss of the resident helicopter would substantially impact our collaborative efforts.

An effort launched by the Newport Fishermen's Wives in the mid-1980's brought about the existence of the Newport Air Facility. Since that time, innumerable lives have been helped and/or saved. The sudden announcement by the Coast Guard in October 2014 that this facility would be closing just two months later was an unexpected shock to everyone on the central Oregon Coast. No warning; no fanfare; just closure. For those dedicated individuals who are in the business of saving lives, this was devastating news. Not only are the citizens they serve at greater risk, so too are the responders.

Each signature on this document represents a request from a Lincoln or Tillamook County emergency response agency for the serious reevaluation of the grave decision to close the Newport Air Facility. Any one of these colleagues would be willing to provide additional information for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dennis L. Dotson in blue ink.

Dennis L. Dotson, Sheriff

Handwritten signature of Andy Long in blue ink.

Andy Long, Sheriff  
Tillamook County Sheriff's Office  
5995 Long Prairie Road  
Tillamook, OR 97141

April 16, 2015

USCG Newport Air Facility Supporting Agencies

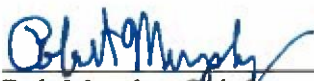
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Dennis Cannon, Chief  
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Josh Williams, Chief  
Depoe Bay Rural Fire Protection District  
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Frankie Petrick, Chief  
Yachats Rural Fire Protection District  
215 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yachats, OR 97498

April 16, 2015

USCG Newport Air Facility Supporting Agencies

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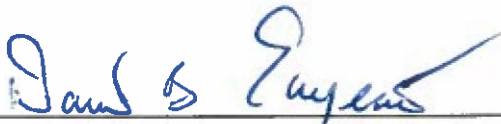
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