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October 8, 2014

R.T. Gromlich, Rear Admiral  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District  
915 Second Ave., Rm 3590  
Seattle, WA 98174

RE: CLOSURE OF AIR FACILITY IN NEWPORT, OREGON

Admiral Gromlich,

The Port of Newport is concerned about the District's decision to close the Coast Guard Air Facility located in Newport. We believe that this decision will result in additional loss of human lives.

Yaquina Bay is Oregon's largest commercial and recreational fishing port. In 2013, over 130-million pounds of fish were landed in Newport totaling over \$54-million in value to Oregon commercial fishermen. Though Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay stopped tracking outbound bar crossings in 2011, the Port served over 700 commercial boats and 1000 recreational boats in our boat basins. Many of these fishing trips occur during the most dangerous ocean conditions from December through February.

In addition to fishing traffic, the Port will begin international log shipments and actively recruiting cruise ships to visit Newport in summer 2015. Furthermore, the Port of Toledo is currently building a state-of-the-art boat haul-out facility that will draw hundreds of additional vessels into Yaquina Bay.

Newport is also becoming a major marine education and research support center on the Pacific coast. With the addition of the NOAA Pacific Marine Operations Center in 2011 and increased investment by Oregon State University in the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Yaquina Bay will also see burgeoning growth in research and survey vessels.

If any of these vessels run into trouble, the amount of time for air support will increase from twenty minutes to sixty minutes for Dolphin support and over an hour for Jayhawk support. That is a huge amount of valuable time.

The Port hopes that the U.S. Coast Guard will re-consider the impact of this decision and take into account the growth of marine traffic that is occurring in this key port on the central Oregon coast.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Greenwood  
General Manager

Cc: Port of Newport Board of Commissioners  
Sen. Ron Wyden  
Sen. Jeff Merkley  
Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners  
Gov. John Kitzhaber  
Newport Mayor Sandra Roumagoux and City Council