



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office of the Director
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302-1142
503-947-6044
Fax: 503-947-6042
www.dfw.state.or.us

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

Re: Scheduled Closure of Coast Guard Air Station, Newport Oregon

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

As the Chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, I urge you to reconsider your plan to close the Air Facility in Newport and maintain your current level of helicopter service in Oregon, including all three coastal ports: Astoria, Newport and Coos Bay/North Bend. As you know, the Newport facility serves the central coast commercial and recreational fishing fleets, recreationalists, enforcement and our growing ocean research fleet (both federal and state vessels). As one of the major drivers of the Oregon – and even the West Coast – coastal economy in both dollars and activity level, Newport warrants retaining the Air Facility.

The Commission oversees Oregon's vibrant marine fisheries, which are central to the culture and economy of the coast. The federal government, the state government, universities and private industry have invested countless millions of dollars in the Newport area, making it a hub for scientific endeavor, collaboration among agencies and industry, and for tourism that draws in visitors from across the Western United States – and even the world. This Air Facility serves this diverse group of individuals and activities and serves as an important symbol for the United States. The symbol reminds residents and visitors alike that while Oregon's coast is a beautiful setting, it can be a dangerous place and safety at sea should be a constant consideration.

I urge you to maintain the Air Facility in Newport as it is critically important to the safety of our commercial, recreational, and research fleets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bobby Levy, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

c: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners

