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Steve Boynton, Superintendent

November 5, 2014

Admiral Paul Zukunff
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Zukunff:

I am writing to urge you to maintain Coast Guard helicopter operations here in Newport, Oregon. The helicopter provides a vital service to commercial and recreational fishermen, as Newport is one of the busiest ports in the state. The crabbing season is soon to start as well – one of the most dangerous times of the year for our fishing vessels.

Tourism is one of the economic engines for Newport. Just after it was announced that the Coast Guard was considering stopping its helicopter operations here, the helicopter was called upon to rescue several tourists stranded on a rocky alcove. The outcome could have been very different without a helicopter nearby.

I hope other alternatives can be considered. The consequences of shutting down helicopter operations here are grave, with significantly longer response times from other Coast Guard stations in Oregon.

Again, I wish to share my support for Coast Guard helicopter operations and strongly support keeping them in Newport.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Boynton
Superintendent