

## **Kevin Greenwood**

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**From:** adri ash <adri123ash97@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 9:28 AM  
**To:** Kevin Greenwood

**As a citizen of Newport, Oregon I feel it is necessary to bring this important issue to your attention. The US Coast Guard is preparing to close a facility in Newport where a search and rescue helicopter is stationed. The Coast Guard said budget cuts were responsible for the closure. The search and rescue helicopter at the Newport facility will be moved to the North Bend station over an hour away. One of the facilities four helicopters will be sent elsewhere. The closure plans drew an angry response from residents and public safety officials on the coast who worry that longer response times will endanger fisherman and tourists. In this region, in this freezing cold water, an hour is a death sentence, at that point your not rescuing people your recovering bodies. Hundreds of people gathered at a community meeting to voice their concerns and send the message that moving the rescue helicopter will cost lives. Several people made comments at the meeting in hopes of their voices being heard. A women named Kate Hasley was among them. She lost her husband years ago when his boat overturned during a photography trip with a friend. The rescue helicopter was stationed at North bend at the time, and got there ten minutes too late. "Witnesses saw my husband standing on a sand bar in the middle of the bay looking for help. He was last seen at 1:52 p.m., and he slipped away and was never recovered. The helicopter arrived at 2:02 p.m." Hasley told Fox 12 "It's my story. Its just going to be a lot more prevalent if they move that helicopter."**

**The issue here is obvious and the people of the community have done all they can to fight for the safety of our citizens. With crabbing season approaching and the search and rescue helicopter moving, the communities nerves are high. The decision to move the helicopter affects the safety of commercial fishermen, anglers and outdoor recreational users. Newport is home of a major fishing port the farther they move the helicopter the more chance of losing lives we have. The community needs to put pressure on the Coast Guard and Oregon's congressional delegation to keep the search and rescue helicopter in Newport. Coast Guard boats and crews will remain in Newport, but without the helicopter emergency response times to far out locations will be much more challenging. Both my brother and my brother in law are commercial fishermen and work on the F.V. Lady Kaye. The thought of one of them getting knocked overboard by a huge wave and never being found again haunts me. That feeling has just been amplified due to the closure of the search and rescue helicopter in Newport. Despite a public meeting that drew hundreds of people, a petition bearing more than 16,000 signatures, despite pleas from the state and federal officials, the final word seems to be that the helicopter will be moved on December 15<sup>th</sup> (the beginning of crabbing season) and will respond from either North Bend or Astoria. Most agree that means the helicopter will be less available to save people at sea. If you live on or near the coast this issue more than likely affects you personally, and it's your job to keep voicing your opinions and putting pressure on the Coast guard. The process in which they took to close the station in Newport was absurd, to give abrupt notice with no opportunity for any input, its outrageous!**

**Since budget cuts are to blame I think the state needs to explore ways to start funding the station in Newport instead of moving it all together which could possibly cost lives. Safety should be the number one priority in all communities, sadly enough we can't afford to offer our**

citizens that comfort. Newport, Oregon is home to the largest port in the state and the search and rescue helicopter belongs here. Do your part and go to [www.portofnewport.com/save-our-air-station.php](http://www.portofnewport.com/save-our-air-station.php) and submit a letter of support or a donation offer. I will be submitting this one. It is up to us to keep fighting for the safety of the people that reside in this county and it's important that our voices are heard.