

November 7, 2014

Adm 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;

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is a private, non-profit 501(c) 3 located on the pristine Yaquina Bay in Newport, Oregon. We have welcomed over 12 million visitors to the Aquarium and Lincoln County since we opened in 1992. The Aquarium is consistently rated a Top Ten Aquarium in the nation with visitors from all over the world. With a staff of 65, volunteers of 450 and a dedicated board of directors, we are all proud to call Newport home.

As you know, partnerships are vital to the success of communities, especially in small yet vibrant cities, such as Newport. We have a flourishing fishing fleet that supports thousands in our community and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Retaining the Coast Guard Air Operations is not only vital to our fleet and families, its impact touches the entire state of Oregon.

I can't tell you how many times I've opened the paper and read about another successful rescue by our Coast Guard Helicopter. The peace of mind that the Air Station brings to the families of those that risk their lives daily is worth consideration. We all live under budget constraints, but what price do you put on human lives? With the opening of Dungeness crab season approaching, it is vital that we be prepared and ready to support those that risk their lives every day.

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and board of directors of the Oregon Coast Aquarium, I respectfully urge you to reverse the decision to relocate the Yaquina Bay Coast Guard Operations. Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Carrie E. Lewis  
President/CEO  
Oregon Coast Aquarium

Cc: Sen. Ron Wyden  
Sen. Jeff Merkley  
Cong. Kurt Schrader  
Rep. David Gombert