

Sandy Berger
2043 SE Oak Crest Drive
Hillsboro, OR 97123

October 31, 2014

Adm. Paul Zukunft, Commandant
US Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 2nd St. SW STOP 700
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Re: US Coast Guard Helicopter, Newport, Oregon

Dear Adm. Zukunft:

I feel strongly about saving the US Coast Guard helicopter facility in Newport, Oregon not only for the safety of Oregonians and tourists who visit the Oregon coast but also because of an experience my co-worker relayed years ago. She and her husband were at the Oregon coast with their young child and they heard screaming in the ocean. Her husband saw teenagers in the surf who had gone out too far and could not get back in. He swam out to save them but the current was too strong. Without the rescue helicopter and their quick response, the lives of those teenagers and my co-worker's husband could have been lost.

I am not sure why the Newport, Oregon US Coast Guard helicopter facility is in jeopardy; however, I plead for you to reconsider so lives are not put in danger. Small, rural communities do not have enough resources and they are not equipped to perform additional rescue operations and water rescues.

My uncles were fishermen and I know they felt safer knowing that the U.S. Coast Guard was close at hand. I appreciate the U.S. Coast Guard Ethos pledging to protect and save lives: "The Ethos ... defines the essence of the Coast Guard and could be viewed as the contract the Coast Guard and its members make with the nation and its citizens."

I am America's Maritime Guardian.
I serve the citizens of the United States.
I will protect them.
I will defend them.
I will save them.
I am their Shield.
For them I am Semper Paratus.
I live the Coast Guard Core Values.
I am a Guardian.
We are the United States Coast Guard.

Thank you for keeping our waterways safe and thank you for protecting the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests. Thank you for keeping the USCG Helicopter in Newport active.

Sincerely,

Sandy Berger
541-331-2658

cc: Newport Fishermen's Wives Assn., P.O. Box 971, Newport, Oregon 97365