

October 20th 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 Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation (YBEF) is an all-volunteer 501C-6 Corporation that was formed in 1981 to encourage and promote growth and economic development in the greater Yaquina Bay region. Numbering nearly 40, YBEF's Directors represent a dynamic cross-section of public and private sector business and community leaders throughout the Newport and Toledo area.

The Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation most strongly supports the endeavors of the scores of citizens, businesses, our fishing fleet, and Oregon government who have joined forces to request that the decision to remove and relocate the Yaquina Bay Coast Guard Air Operations be reversed.

As a community, we value and rely on the U.S. Coast Guard helicopter for rescues and recovery emergencies. Keeping the Air Station located in Newport is not only critical for the marine safety of our vibrant and active fishing community, but for those who visit and enjoy recreation on our beaches and in our waterways.

We stand behind the thousands that have written, called and attended meetings regarding this issue. For the safety of our fishing community, we urge you to reverse this decision. We look forward to assisting with seeking alternate solutions that will ensure the Air Station continues to serve Newport and the Oregon central coast.

Sincerely,

Carrie E. Lewis
President, Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation

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