

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

2 **FOR LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON**

3 In the Matter of: )

4 )  
5 ***SUPPORT FOR THE PORT OF NEWPORT'S*** )  
6 ***OPPOSITION TO HB 2284*** )

RESOLUTION # 19-2-13A

7  
8 Whereas Lincoln County recognizes the important role the Port of Newport has played in  
9 the County's economy. Investments by local taxpayers in the amount of \$15,452,000 in voter  
10 approved GO Bonds leveraged approximately \$10,400,000 in grants, other Port funds and  
11 including a \$5,586,000 loan from the State of Oregon to remediate significant environmental  
12 issues on Port facilities and upgrade the Port's International Terminal capabilities; and

13 Whereas Lincoln County recognizes the Port's achievements over the last decade to  
14 enhance the local economy, including but not limited to, the International Terminal upgrades, the  
15 construction and leasing of the NOAA Marine Operations Center-Pacific, assistance in expansion  
16 of Hatfield Marine Science Center and assistance in the development of the Oregon State Marine  
17 Studies Initiative; and

18 Whereas Lincoln County recognizes the economic, environmental, and educational  
19 impact of ocean research supported by Port facilities and services, including the Oregon Coastal  
20 Ocean Observing System, the National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NMREC) and  
21 PacWave, the first grid connected wave energy test facility to be built in the United States; and

22 Whereas Lincoln County recognizes that Port facilities and services support our  
23 homeported sustainable fishing industry, whether harvesting local or distant waters resources,  
24 which constitute a vital part of the central coast's economy. Recent figures show that 11% of  
25 Lincoln County's earned income, which is just shy of \$1 billion (\$986.7 million) comes from  
26 commercial fishing, and of that amount 62% of the commercial fishing income comes from  
27 offshore and distant water fisheries. These are the commercial fishing vessels that use the  
28 International Terminal on regular basis--homeported locally owned vessels too large to fit  
29 anywhere else in the Port. In addition to producing income for the county and state, the fishing  
30 industry produces revenue for the Port; and

31 Whereas Lincoln County recognizes that commercial shipping use needs to be fostered at  
32 the International Terminal to fulfill the multi-use facets of the facility and the commitments made  
33 to the voters and others about diversifying the economic activities of the Port; and

1           Whereas Lincoln County recognizes that the Port has experienced leadership lapses in the  
2 recent past that detract from the accomplishments noted above, but also recognizes that the Port  
3 and community have taken steps to rectify the issues, to move past missed opportunities to  
4 diversify operations and are now committed to working with both the commercial fishing  
5 industry and commercial shipping to achieve the promise of all those investments made in the  
6 International Terminal. Towards betterment of management and operations at the Port, the  
7 County notes the Port Commission has selected an interim General Manager who is moving the  
8 Port forward towards suitable selection of the next leadership team, a new General Manager and  
9 Director of Finance, this spring and that updates of the Port's Strategic Business and Capital  
10 Facilities Plans are on track to be available in March; and

11           Whereas a bill has been introduced in the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session, HB 2284,  
12 which would provide that the currently locally elected special district Port of Newport  
13 Commissioners be replaced by a Commission of persons appointed by the Governor of the State  
14 and subject to confirmation by the Oregon Senate. The bill would also designate specific  
15 stakeholder qualifications for each of the five commissioner positions. Finally, the bill would  
16 rename the district the "Oregon International Port of Newport"; and

17           Whereas Lincoln County opposes the bill. It removes local control. It flies in the face of  
18 the local financial support sought and obtained from District voters and taxpayers in making  
19 significant investments in Port facilities and operations. It was not a bill initiated or supported by  
20 local district voters, but by interests and stakeholders outside the community. There are existing  
21 tools in special district laws for voters to initiate needed changes locally when circumstances  
22 warrant such a move. The Port is currently taking steps to move forward, after faltering in the  
23 recent past. The County believes the local community should decide if this is the right direction;  
24 and

25           Whereas if HB 2284 moves forward, at a minimum the bill must include the right of local  
26 district votes to decide whether to change the appointment process as proposed and should delete  
27 any reference to stakeholder interests holding certain seats, and instead have the requirement only  
28 that the Commissioners be electors of the District.

29  
30 **Now therefore, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners:**

31  
32           Opposes HB 2284. The Board urges the Oregon Legislature, including the Oregon  
33 Coastal Caucus and the Governor's Office, to not pass or enact this into law. If this bill moves  
34 forward, at a minimum, it must include the right of local voters to decide whether or not to  
35 implement proposed changes to the Commission selection process and should not include seat  
36 qualifications except that the Commissioners be electors of the District.

1 Directs that copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the Port of Newport, Oregon  
2 Coastal Caucus, Governor Brown, and be entered into the record for any proceedings involving  
3 HB 2284.

DATED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Claire Hall, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Hunt, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kaety Jacobson, Commissioner