

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, & Transportation  
512 Dirksen Senate Building

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, & Transportation  
425 Hart Senate Building

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Chairmen Thune and Shuster and Ranking Members Nelson and DeFazio:

As you put together an authorization bill for the United States Coast Guard, we urge you to retain section 5214 of the House-passed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Authorization Act in any final agreement.

We remain extremely concerned about Coast Guard air facilities in the high-use ports of Newport, Oregon and Charleston, South Carolina. Newport is home to Oregon's largest commercial fishing fleet and several National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessels. Charleston is one of America's top cargo ports and also boasts important tourism and fishing industries.

We believe the health and safety of Americans must be among Congress' highest priorities—a belief we know you share. We were pleased that the House of Representatives included language in the bipartisan Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2017, and later in the recently-passed Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act, to keep these facilities open in recognition of their live-saving capabilities.

We understand you and your staffs are now discussing a final reauthorization bill for the Coast Guard. As you continue these discussions, we urge you in the strongest terms to retain this language—section 5214 of the DHS Authorization Act and section 214 of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2017—in any final agreement.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Tim Scott  
United States Senator