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November 19, 2025

Admiral Kevin E. Lunday,
Acting Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
1790 Ash St. SE,
Washington D.C. 20032

Dear Admiral Lunday,

I write to request that a representative of the Coast Guard join me at 11am PST at the Newport Municipal Airport on Sunday, November 23, 2025, before my Lincoln County town hall in Newport, Oregon, to speak with my constituents regarding the relocation of a Coast Guard helicopter essential to local public safety. On November 12, 2025, I wrote to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Noem and you seeking timely answers about the recent change in Coast Guard assets. To date, I have not received any answers or updates from the Coast Guard or DHS.

That ongoing silence about a decision that carries life-and-death consequences for Oregonians and visitors to this community is unacceptable to the people I'm proud to represent.

The City of Newport serves as a proud Coast Guard city—just the fifth city in the United States to receive this recognition—for its role in housing and serving our Coast Guard members and their families. The Coast Guard serves as a critical lifeline for Oregon's fishing industry, coastal visitors, and residents of Newport, and we are grateful for our Coast Guard members working each day to ensure maritime safety and security. In addition to nearby station boat crews, the Coast Guard's MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and forward staged aircrew based out of Newport has been a proven lifesaver in search and rescue operations for years. I fought long and hard, alongside Oregonians, to preserve this crucial part of our coastal safety net, which is why I am so deeply concerned that DHS has relocated this helicopter without any notice to, or consultation with, the communities. This move endangers all those at sea, and will certainly undermine search and rescue operations, particularly ahead of crabbing season.

Newport residents and small business owners remain extremely concerned about how this move threatens search and rescue operations, considering that the next closest helicopter appears to now be more than 90 miles away in North Bend, Oregon. The fishing community in Newport is understandably worried that if someone in the cold water of the Pacific is in need of immediate rescue, the Coast Guard crews nearby will not have the necessary assets to save their lives.

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310 WEST 6TH ST
ROOM 118
MEDFORD, OR 97501
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE
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BEND, OR 97701
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE
SUITE 285
SALEM, OR 97301
(503) 589-4555

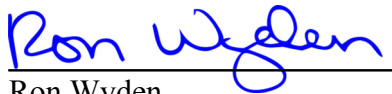
[HTTPS://WYDEN.SENATE.GOV](https://wyden.senate.gov)

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I am meeting with Oregonians at 11am at the Newport Municipal Airport on November 23, 2025, to discuss this issue, and ask that you send a representative to join me in this meeting. Please contact my field representative, Ree Armitage at Ree_Armitage@wyden.senate.gov, to confirm attendance and for any assistance with logistics.

I hope that you will be responsive to my request and will clarify, immediately, any changes underway to the Coast Guard's posture along the Oregon coastline.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator