

RESOLUTION 2026-01

A Resolution of the City of Lincoln City Condemning the Department of Homeland Security's Decision to Relocate the Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter away from Newport, Oregon

WHEREAS, there has been a U.S. Coast Guard ("Coast Guard") rescue helicopter and crew stationed in Newport, Oregon, and completing rescue missions and supporting Oregon's coastal fishing community since 1987;

WHEREAS, Newport, Oregon, has proven to be a centralized, efficient location for the helicopter's search and rescue operations along the Oregon Coast;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the local and regional importance of the rescue helicopter and crew stationed in Newport, Oregon, for maritime safety and preserving human life;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the City of Lincoln City (the "City") is as much a part of the coastal community as Newport, Oregon;

WHEREAS, the City similarly relies on the rescue helicopter to protect and rescue its citizens, particularly during crabbing season;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") has decided to relocate the Coast Guard's rescue helicopter away from Newport, Oregon;

WHEREAS, the Newport Fisherman's Wives, Inc., a nonprofit organization (the "Fishermen's Wives", and Lincoln County have filed a lawsuit, Case No. Civ. No. 6:25-cv-02165-AA, against the United States Coast Guard, an agency of DHS, and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem (collectively, "DHS"), and have obtained a temporary restraining order to keep the rescue helicopter in place; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to protect the City's workforce, visitors, members of the community in the fishing industry, and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF LINCOLN CITY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The City Council finds that the Coast Guard's rescue helicopter and crew stationed in Newport, Oregon, are critical to preserving Oregon's coastal safety net, and essential for protecting human life on the Oregon Coast.

Section 2: The City Council finds that DHS's decision to relocate the rescue helicopter and crew away from Newport would endanger those in the fishing industry and others at sea along the Oregon Coast, and severely undermine search and rescue operations, particularly during crabbing season, when cold water and severe weather patterns combine to create dangerous conditions.

- Section 3: The City Council disapproves of and is deeply concerned by DHS’s decisions to relocate the rescue helicopter away from Newport, Oregon, and to do so without consulting affected communities.
- Section 4: The City Council supports the Fishermen’s Wives and Lincoln County in their lawsuit against DHS, as it relates to maintaining the lifesaving Coast Guard rescue helicopter and crew in Newport, Oregon.
- Section 5: The City Council firmly believes that if the rescue helicopter is relocated away from Newport, it is not a matter of if someone in the local fishing community will die, but when.
- Section 6: The City Council believes that there is no greater or better use for federal resources on the Oregon Coast than protecting human life.
- Section 7: The City Council desires and believes, for these reasons, the rescue helicopter and crew must remain in Newport, Oregon.

Adopted by the City Council on January 12, 2026. This resolution is effective on January 12, 2026.

APPROVED:

Susan Wahlke, Mayor

Attest:

Jamie Young, City Recorder

Approved at to Form:

Emily Farrell, Outside Legal Counsel COLC