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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF OREGON
(Eugene Division)

NEWPORT FISHERMEN'S WIVES, INC.,
an Oregon nonprofit corporation, **CITY OF**
NEWPORT, LINCOLN COUNTY and
PORT OF NEWPORT,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, an
agency of the United States Department of
Homeland Security,

Defendant.

Case No.

DECLARATION OF JENNIFER
STEVENSON IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

I, Jennifer Stevenson, being sworn, say:

1. I am the president of Newport Fishermen's Wives, Inc., which is a federally registered 501(c)(3) charity and an Oregon nonprofit corporation. I reside in Newport, Oregon and make this declaration based upon my own personal knowledge.

2. According to our bylaws, the primary mission of Newport Fishermen's Wives is "for the purpose of voluntarily aiding and assisting families, relatives, or dependents of commercial fishermen or deceased commercial fisherman." Following a number of tragic losses of Newport fishermen to death by drowning or hypothermia in the early 1980s, our organization led the fight to convince the Coast Guard of the need to establish an air station in Newport with a rescue helicopter. The Newport Air Station was established in 1987 and has performed dozens of rescues annually in the succeeding 27 years.

3. I grew up in a fishing family in Newport where my parents were the owners of two commercial fishing vessels. I am currently married to Jonathan Stevenson, who is a commercial fisherman working aboard the fishing vessel Excalibur. This vessel is homeported in Newport and fishes each year for Dungeness crab, various species of bottom fish and the mid-water fishery focused on Pacific whiting.

4. My husband and I have three children, ages two, six and nine. Involvement in the fishing industry tends to run in families and I will not be surprised if one or more of our children starts fishing commercially. Fishing is well known as a dangerous occupation. In the North Pacific, the single greatest danger is immersion in cold ocean waters for more than 30 minutes. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health rates the Dungeness crab fishery that is concentrated in the heavy weather months of December, January and February as the most dangerous fishery on the West Coast.

5. As the wife of a fisherman, my peace of mind when my husband is offshore fishing comes from my knowledge of the safety culture and training aboard his vessel and the quick rescue capability of the Coast Guard helicopters in Newport. For many of the wives in our

organization, it is not only our husbands at risk but our children as well. The Newport News Times article attached as Exhibit A describes the situation in Kelley Retherford's family. Kelley and her husband Mike own the fishing vessels Excalibur and Wynona J. All four of their children, three sons and a daughter, make up most of the crew on those two boats and all will be crabbing when the season opens in the next week.

6. Newport Fishermen's Wives fought to secure the Coast Guard rescue helicopter in 1987 and now we're fighting to save it. Because survival time in the cold waters of the North Pacific Ocean is generally only 30 minutes, it is critically important to the commercial fishing community on Oregon's central coast that the air rescue capability at the Coast Guard Air Station in Newport is maintained intact. In order for my husband and the husbands of other wives in our organization to have a fighting chance if they are swept overboard by a rogue wave or otherwise fall into the Pacific Ocean, quick response time is vital to their survival.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

DATED this 24th day of November, 2014.


Jennifer Stevenson

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IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

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Friday, 14 November 2014 17:06

Orange Ribbons Symbol of Fight to Save Newport Coast Guard Helicopter



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The Newport Fishermen's Wives along with friends and families of fishermen tied more than 100 orange ribbons along the Port of Newport boardwalk Friday symbolizing support for keeping a U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter stationed locally. (Photos by Larry Coonrod)

By Larry Coonrod

NEWPORT—As fishermen worked Friday readying boats and pots for the upcoming crab season, their friends and family fastened orange ribbons along the Bayfront as a symbol of hope that the Coast Guard will keep a helicopter in Newport to watch over them at sea.



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“The ribbons symbolize the effort to save our helicopter,” said Cari Hamrick with the Newport Fishermen’s Wives.

The Fishermen’s Wives are leading the charge to reverse a decision by the Coast Guard’s high command to strip

Newport of a dedicated search and rescue helicopter. When the Newport air facility closes Dec. 15, the Coast Guard’s nearest helicopters are at least an hour’s flying time away in North Bend or Astoria.

Helicopter Gives Fishing Families Security

Spurred on by the loss of several local fishermen at sea, the Newport Fishermen’s Wives fought to bring the helicopter to Newport in 1986.

The start of the Dungeness crab season on Dec. 1 was very much on the minds of those who tied more than 100 ribbons along the port boardwalk Friday.

Kelley and Mike Retherford own the fishing vessels Excalibur and Wynona J. The boats will cross the Yaquina Bar this season with all four of their children aboard.

EXHIBIT A
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“During crab season my daughter will be on the back deck, my youngest son on the back deck and one son in the wheelhouse,” Kelley Retherford said. “The other son is running the other boat. So I have four kids on the ocean and a helicopter they’re trying to make go away.”

Kelley said she used to tell people that despite the dangers of the ocean, she felt secure about her family’s safety.

“A lot of my security came from knowing we did have that helicopter there,” she said.



Kelley Retherford ties a ribbon along the dock walkway. Retherford and her husband Mike own two fishing vessels crewed by all four of their children. “A lot of my security came from knowing we did have that helicopter there,” she said.

Fishermen Appreciation Day

During Friday’s Fishermen Appreciation Day sponsored by the Fishermen’s Wives, volunteers served breakfast and lunch to boat crews and handed out black and orange “Save Our Helo” T-shirts bearing the names of sponsoring businesses.

If necessary, the Fishermen’s Wives is considering sending a delegation to Washington D.C. to fight for the helicopter. Hamrick said the group is hopeful more businesses will sponsor the effort.

Since the Coast Guard announced the closing of the Newport air facility last month, the Fishermen’s Wives have rallied Oregon’s congressional delegation around the cause and collected more than 18,000 online and paper petition signatures demanding the search and rescue helicopter remain in Newport.

“We fought to get the helicopter here and now we’re fighting to keep it,” Kelley Retherford said.

For more information about the Newport Fishermen’s Wives “Save The Helo” campaign or to make a donation, go to www.NewportFishermensWives.com (<http://www.NewportFishermensWives.com>).

An online petition to keep the helicopter in Newport can be found [HERE](http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/save-the-newport-rescue.fb51?source=s.icn.fb&r_by=11390115) (http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/save-the-newport-rescue.fb51?source=s.icn.fb&r_by=11390115).

Newport Fishermen’s Wives on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/NewportFishermensWives> ([/%20https://www.facebook.com/NewportFishermensWives](https://www.facebook.com/NewportFishermensWives))

Contact Reporter Larry Coonrod by emailing editor@lincolncountydispatch.com (<mailto:editor@lincolncountydispatch.com>)



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