

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2026

Dr. Neil Jacobs
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Edward C. Forst
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Under Secretary Jacobs and Administrator Forst,

We write to urge you to renew the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Operations Center – Pacific (MOC-P)’s fleet lease in Newport, Oregon. The MOC-P houses critical training and ship operations for a fleet of two NOAA research ships and provides administrative, maintenance, engineering and logistical support for NOAA’s entire Pacific fleet.

NOAA selected the Port of Newport for the location of MOC-P in 2011 after extensive research by your agencies and detailed preparation by the Port of Newport and the surrounding community. NOAA has periodically evaluated its lease in Newport and failed to identify an alternative location that can accommodate MOC-P as well as Newport.

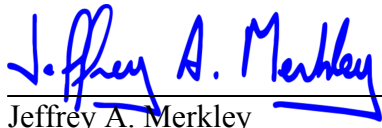
Newport is the ideal location for MOC-P. Situated on Yaquina Bay, Newport provides direct and quick access to the Pacific Ocean. Newport’s location provides low operational costs for the MOC-P compared to more inland ports and ensures that the fleet sits in the middle of the West Coast – providing efficient access to Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. It is also home to Oregon State University’s Hatfield Marine Science Center, which has facilitated a collaborative partnership between the agency and university. Further, Newport is committed to investment in the infrastructure needed to support MOC-P and its workers to ensure the community remains an affordable and accessible place for NOAA employees.

The Port has sufficient capacity to support the two current NOAA ships that are homeported at the facility and capacity to accommodate up to six NOAA ships should there be any future increases. The Port’s team works diligently to provide administrative, maintenance, engineering, and logistical support for the facilities. Further, Newport is a hub of maritime activity on the West Coast, possessing a skilled workforce and economy focused on the maritime sector.

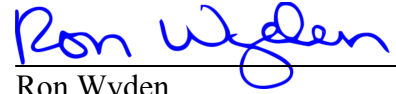
Rather than continuing to survey additional waterfront sites along the West Coast that meet the extensive requirements for rebasing this fleet, we encourage you to further capitalize on the initial investment and keep MOC-P in Newport. Keeping the fleet in Newport will be the most efficient, lowest cost option for maintaining NOAA’s fleet directly on the Pacific Coast.

We look forward to your support for keeping MOC-P in Newport.

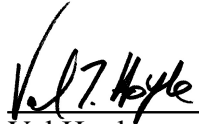
Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



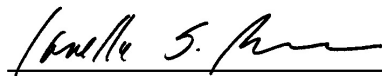
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress