

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 202

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To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the United States Coast Guard is a military, maritime, multimission service that has answered the call of Americans continuously for more than 220 years; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard's military structure, law enforcement authority and humanitarian functions make it a unique arm of the national security apparatus of the United States; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard is well known for being the first to reach the scene when maritime disaster strikes, and continues to be tasked with protecting our waters from pollution, our borders from drug smuggling and our fisheries from overharvesting and with many other assignments that stretch its resources thin; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard has remained steady in its commitment to the mission of lifesaving and to safeguarding the ocean, even as its responsibilities and missions have evolved; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard is the only military organization within the Department of Homeland Security; and

Whereas the duties of the United States Coast Guard include search and rescue, law enforcement, aiding navigation, marine safety, safeguarding ports, waterways and coasts, drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, engaging in oceanographic research, protecting the marine environment and conducting operations to break ice that obstructs navigation; and

Whereas natural resources and transportation routes in the Arctic are being pursued by all Arctic nations and many other nations as Arctic sea ice is reduced, and the United States Coast Guard is increasing its activities in the Arctic in order to improve knowledge and defense of the Arctic interests of the United States; and

Whereas no other military service or private organization has the extensive inventory of assets and expertise to conduct search and rescue missions on lakes, rivers, nearshore areas and the high seas for both recreational boaters and commercial mariners; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard's missions are varied and touch the lives of all Americans; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard provides the first line of defense in protecting the maritime environment through its marine safety program, ensures the safe commercial transport of passengers, cargo and oil through our waters, and guards our maritime borders from the incursions of foreign fishing vessels; and

Whereas the United States Coast Guard serves as a global model of effective and efficient military, maritime, multimission service for the emerging coast guards of the world, helps other countries become positive forces of peace and helps ensure stability and promote democracy and the rule of law in these other countries; and

Whereas the men and women of the United States Coast Guard are a highly motivated group of individuals who are committed to serving the American public; and

Whereas the Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force has requested that the Legislative Assemblies of the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington support full funding of the United States Coast Guard and its missions and people; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The President of the United States and the Congress of the United States of America are respectfully requested to support full funding of the United States Coast Guard's operational readiness and recapitalization requirements in order to ensure that this humanitarian arm of our national security apparatus remains Semper Paratus through the 21st century.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House February 6, 2012

Ramona Kenady Line, Chief Clerk of House

Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate February 20, 2012

Peter Courtney, President of Senate