



169 SW COAST HWY
NEWPORT, OREGON 97365

COAST GUARD CITY, USA

www.newportoregon.gov

MOMBETSU, JAPAN, SISTER CITY

March 25, 2013

Representative Bailey, Chair
House Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3451 - Establishing Oceangoing Research Vessel Program

Dear Chair Bailey:

On behalf of the City of Newport, I am writing to encourage passage of HB 3451 that would provide state funding for a comprehensive ocean research vessel program. The funding would help support research conducted from Oregon State University vessels by students and faculty of OSU. OSU's research helps Newport, other coastal communities, and the state to develop effective marine and coastal policies related to fisheries, offshore energy, tourism, and conservation.

As you know, OSU was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant to design a new ocean research vessel. It is believed that once this vessel is completed, it will replace the Oceanus - OSU's current research vessel. The fact that the Oceanus is based in Newport is a big economic boost to this community and the central coast, as the Oceanus purchases fuel and operating supplies locally. The city risks losing the Oceanus and its successor if other states provide greater assurances of financial support committed to vessel operations. Failure to pass HB 3451 could be a huge economic hit for the economy of the central Oregon coast.

Again, we urge passage of HB 3451 as a means to ensure that Oregon practicing scientists and students can continue to perform research within Oregon's coastal waters and beyond.

Very truly yours,

Jim Voetberg
City Manager

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