SJM 7   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Roblan

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date:	04/13/17
Action:	Be adopted.
Vote:	4-0-0-0
Yeas:	4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney
Fiscal:	No fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges Congress to permanently and adequately fund and maintain United States Coast Guard air facility in Newport, Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

• Public safety; geographic area left unprotected without Newport facility
• Interconnectedness of local, state and regional emergency response
• Importance of coastal industries and tourism

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Newport, Oregon is home to one of the state's three deep draft ports, the state's largest-grossing commercial fishing fleet, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Marine Operations Center, Oregon State University research personnel and vessels, and robust recreational and sport fishing industries. Moreover, Lincoln County as a whole attracts a substantial share of the state's tourists and recreational visitors.

The United States Coast Guard maintains search and rescue and law enforcement operations out of Yaquina Bay with air support located at the Newport Municipal Airport. The station responds to hundreds of calls for assistance every year, and is a longstanding, embedded member of the coastal and regional community. Newport's is also the only air facility on the Oregon coast located outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

The Coast Guard's air operations have been threatened with closure since 2014. A broad coalition of federal, state and local public officials, citizens, commercial industries and community groups have sustained and continued efforts to preserve the Coast Guard's air facility in Newport. Senate Joint Memorial 7, urging Congress to adequately fund and maintain the United States Coast Guard air facility in Newport in perpetuity, is the product of these efforts.