

Dear Senator Monnes-Anderson,

March 19, 2019

I am the ship's physician of The Salvage Chief and I am an Astoria native. I am involved in the Salvage Chiefs emergency preparedness training and readiness. I believe that everyone is in agreement that a Cascadia subduction earthquake will result in catastrophic damage, if not complete destruction of coastal communities. In Clatsop County, it is reasonable to conclude that both hospitals, Camp Rilea, USCG Air Station Astoria, and all utilities and public services will be destroyed. Bridges will be collapsed or impassable.

It has been suggested that it will be at least thirty days until meaningful disaster relief will begin to reach the coast. The Salvage Chief can play a unique role in emergency medical and trauma disaster response in conjunction with both state and federal support. It can supply over a million watts of ship-to-shore power for 45 days or 250,000 watts of ship-to-shore power for 180 days without resupply. This could be used to power community relief efforts and a field hospital pre-stationed on the vessel. It has capacity for 100 tons of cargo and supplies. It has a helipad and its on board water filtration system provides 3,000 gallons a day of potable water a day without chemicals for any water source. The ship was designed to be offshore six months without needing resupply. I believe with your committee's support, The Salvage Chief will have a critical role in disaster recovery.

Sincerely,

James R. Wirkkula, DO, FABFM from my iPhone