

Good Morning,

My name is Pat Cox. Thank you for the opportunity to speak again. During the last hearing I spoke as Port Manager and of the benefits that the Port Orford Seafood Hub Redevelopment Project will provide the Port, City, County and State.

Today I am addressing you as the Mayor of Port Orford and will be focusing on the things this Redevelopment project will do to enhance and revitalize the community.

I have lived in Port Orford for over 40 years and have seen the decline of both industry and our economy. Commercial fishing is still going strong due to the continued diversification by our fleet.

As Mayor I will do everything I can to promote industry and commerce for the City, and this project is without a doubt the most important thing that will happen to the City and the Port in our lifetimes.

Unfortunately, the demographics for Port Orford are grim.

Median household income is 50% less than the national average.

The unemployment rate is 45% higher than the national average.

Cost of living is 7% higher than the national average.

Poverty level is 131% compared to the national average.

Employment, Housing, and aging infrastructure are the biggest issues facing the City of Port Orford today.

Currently the Port provides the opportunities for almost 75 people to be employed, with even more seasonally. The income provided by the fleet of Port Orford, as well as the Research and tourism industry generated at the Port, are the major economic driver of Port Orford. This project will add to that exponentially.

This project will open doors for employment, and potentially work force housing and help the strain Cities aging infrastructure.

The Port's high water demand taxes the cities aging infrastructure and this Project will diminish that need to a fraction of what it is. Benefiting both city and Port in their conservation efforts.

Today you can help a city, county, and even our state. The potential of this project is staggering, and this is one of the major steps in realizing that potential.

I of course am partial to this project, nevertheless I feel that the Port Orford Seafood Hub Redevelopment Project is the most transformative and beneficial item on your docket today. The impact of this project will benefit all of Oregon, not just our community.

This is a project that we could all be proud of,

I Thank you for your consideration.

p.cox@portofportorford.org
patcoxportorford@gmail.com