



Tongue Point Job Corps Maritime Training Program

April 27, 2021

900 Court St. NE #209
Salem, OR 97301

Attention: Oregon Senate

Subject: Letter of Support for the SALVAGE CHIEF foundation & EFFORTS ON SENATE
BILL 826

Dear Senators,

It is my absolute pleasure to reaffirm my support for the repair, upgrade and return to operations of the SALVAGE CHIEF.

Based on our Maritime program's several interactions and work with the SALVAGE CHIEF Foundation, it is evident that they are passionate about readying the SALVAGE CHIEF for the capabilities necessary to help preserve public peace, health and safety during declared emergencies and other roles. Our program consists of 130 students, all between the ages of 18 to 24, and are considered under-served young adults. We train these students onboard a 79 year old, retired Coast Guard ship while underway on the majestic Columbia River. Over the past 6 years, our program has benefitted greatly from conducting "real world operations" with SALVAGE CHIEF. During these evolutions, our program has amassed over 10,000 hours of internship time for our students and this has allowed them to gain valuable deck and engineering maintenance experience. The SALVAGE CHIEF foundation's pioneering spirit has been a great resource for our program to complete our overall mission of building proficient, professional and passionate Coast Guard credentialed Merchant Mariners.

In addition, the vision of the SALVAGE CHIEF becoming a fully functioning Columbia River training vessel, which prepares for disasters, is incredibly intriguing. If this vision becomes a reality, the SALVAGE CHIEF will open many more doors for "real world operations" for our program and more importantly, will allow for a multi-faceted and incredibly capable asset to be ready to answer the call when needed in times of emergency.

I strongly recommend and encourage the State of Oregon to fully support Senate Bill 826 and the SALVAGE CHIEF foundation. To continue to invest in this promising capability development will benefit a wide variety of causes. Due to my personal interactions, I firmly believe that the SALVAGE CHIEF foundation has the proficiency, professionalism and passion to provide a great return on Oregon's investment. Let's ready the Chief!!!

Very Respectfully and Sincerely,

Len R. Tumbarello, Captain, US Coast Guard (retired)
Director of Maritime Training Program
Master Mariner
Tongue Point Job Corps

CC: Chairman of the SALVAGE CHIEF (LSM380) Foundation, Don Floyd