



Mr. Walter Chuck, President
Port of Newport
600 SE Bay Blvd
Newport, OR 97365

May 26, 2016

Dear Commissioner Chuck

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Midwater Trawlers Cooperative (MTC). MTC represents 23 midwater trawl catcher vessels, sixteen of which are home-ported in Newport. MTC vessels fish primarily for whiting and other groundfish off the west coast and pollock and cod in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

I am writing to express MTC's strong support for the appointment of Mr. Jeff Lackey to the vacant Port of Newport commissioner seat. Jeff has extensive knowledge and experience with the commercial fishing industry – both off the west coast and in Alaska. As the Port continues to further develop the activities at the International Terminal to incorporate important shipping opportunities, the trawl vessels that utilize that space will need to have a voice in the process. Jeff has a demonstrated ability to collaborate and cooperate in order to develop win-win solutions to complex issues or problems.

MTC believes that Jeff is the perfect candidate to balance the economic development needs of the community with current users of the port facilities. Newport is home to a very diversified fleet. It is one of the only authentic working waterfronts left in Oregon – where actual fishing businesses co-exist successfully with tourism and recreational opportunities. It is the authenticity of our working waterfront that attracts so many welcomed guests. Balancing the needs of the tourism industry with the folks who are providing family-wage jobs in fishing, processing, shipping, and resource management is key to the success of the Port of Newport.

I hope you will agree that Jeff would be a terrific asset to the Port of Newport. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge together with a proven track record of collaboration. MTC strongly supports his appointment to fill the vacancy on the Commission.

I can be reached at 541-272-4544 or by email at heathermunromann@gmail.com to provide any additional information or answer any questions you might have. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Mann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Mann
Midwater Trawlers Cooperative