

Submitter: Leonard Tumbarello

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs

Measure: SB200

February 21, 2023

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Sen. James Manning Jr., Chair

Sen. Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair

Sen. Chris Gorsek

Sen. Dennis Linthicum

Sen. Aaron Woods

Honorable Senators Manning, Thatcher, Gorsek, Linthicum and Woods:

As the Director of Seamanship for the Tongue Point Job Corps in Astoria, OR, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Salvage Chief and SB200. On behalf of the Tongue Point Job Corps Seamanship program, I enthusiastically endorse bringing the SALVAGE CHIEF up to a fully operational status to act as a valuable resource for emergency aid during a needed contingency.

First and foremost, as a retired Coast Guard Captain and now, a Coast Guard licensed Master Mariner, I cannot state the importance of having a capable platform like the SALVAGE CHIEF at the ready to provide emergency aid, power, water and services to provide for the health, safety and welfare of this area's citizens. I want to thank the SALVAGE CHIEF Foundation for keeping this "dream alive" and putting the time, work and effort into making the repairs and upgrade of this platform a reality. Their work will prove vital for mariners and to help keep waterways safe/secure, environmentally pristine, so the absolute critical flow of commerce can continue unimpeded. For that, I am incredibly grateful. With that said, I am providing this letter of support for SALVAGE CHIEF and subsequent funding of, so the Foundation can continue working this magic and having the SALVAGE CHIEF a big part of a safe, well equipped Maritime Transportation system.

I am currently the Director of a Seamanship Program at the Tongue Point Job Corps' Center in Astoria, Oregon. Our program consists of 120 students, all between the ages of 18 to 24, which are considered under-served young adults. Our mission is to train these students to become proficient, professional and passionate Coast Guard credentialed Merchant Mariners for successful careers in the Maritime Industry. Our program is much like a Mini-Maritime Academy where our students spend two years

as a captive audience and learn the craft of being a Seafarer. We train these students onboard a 78-year-old, retired Coast Guard ship while underway on the majestic Columbia River. Over the past several years, our students have interned onboard the SALVAGE CHIEF and gained extremely valuable experience towards honing their selected craft. All the while, our students coupled with Foundation members have brought SALVAGE CHIEF up to an impressive state. Our entire Seamanship program has an incredible vested interest in seeing the SALVAGE CHIEF go from its current state to a multifaceted resource ready to respond. Quite frankly, it is due time to take the next steps and support the funding necessary to cover the costs associated with bringing a ship of this nature back up to a fully operational state.

As such, I strongly recommend and encourage the State and Federal entities responsible to fund and support SALVAGE CHIEF's vision, mission and operations. Our Seamanship program unequivocally supports a continuation of readying the CHIEF and the funding necessary to repair and upgrade its mechanical needs. The support from your committee is absolutely critical to this effort and subsequent success.

Very Respectfully and Sincerely,

L. R. Tumbarello, CAPT, USCG, (retired)

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