

February 20, 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

Senators Manning, Thatcher, Gorsek, Linthicum and Woods:

As the President of the Astoria Uppertown Business Association in Astoria, Oregon, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Salvage Chief and SB200.

The capabilities of this ship and crew are impressive. The potential of The Salvage Chief for providing emergency aid, power, water and services to provide for the health, safety and welfare of our citizens, necessary.

The possibility of a large earthquake and many other catastrophic events is a true concern to our citizens. We are not prepared for such devastation and given our location, we will be cut-off from aid for weeks or months. We are surrounded by water and mountains with only two highways connecting Clatsop County to the I-5 corridor, both prone to slides and will be impassable. In a major disaster, several bridges between Portland and Astoria will fail, leaving Clatsop County stranded.

The Salvage Chief fills an enormous role in helping our community survive such an event. Fitted with five generators that can provide over a million watts of ship-to-shore power for 45 days, the powerful ship is able to provide a necessary field hospital, can filter up to 3,000 gallons of drinking water daily, and can be offshore for six months without needing resupply.

These capabilities will mean the difference between death and survival for thousands of citizens.

Our association urges you to support the efforts of The Salvage Chief Foundation, to repair and upgrade the vessel and—Ready The Chief!

Sincerely,

Stacey Stahl, President
Astoria Uppertown Business Association
Astoria, Oregon/Clatsop County
(503) 804-3205

