



## CITY OF ASTORIA

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

Sen. James Manning Jr., Chair

Sen. Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair

Sen. Mark Meek

Sen. David Brock Smith

Sen. Aaron Woods

March 19, 2025

**RE: Letter of Support for Salvage Chief and SB2**

Honorable Senators Manning, Thatcher, Meek, Smith and Woods:

As the Mayor of Astoria, Oregon I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Salvage Chief and SB2. I have had the honor of touring the ship and meeting the crew working to bring the Salvage Chief back online. The capabilities of this ship, and the 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 is unmatched, and extremely necessary for our community.

Of great concern to our community is the possibility of a Cascadia subduction earthquake, one of several catastrophic events for which our community is not prepared. Given our location, topography and geography, what is left of Clatsop County after such an event will be cut off from sources of aid for weeks or months. We are surrounded on three sides by water, and mountains on the remaining side. We have only two highways connecting Clatsop County to the I-5 corridor. Both are prone to slides in minor weather events and will be impassable after even a minor earthquake. In a major disaster, several bridges between Portland and Astoria will fail, making the Columbia River unnavigable, leaving Clatsop County stranded. As in past disasters, Clatsop County will be dependent on resources within the county until outside aid can be provided.

The Salvage Chief would play an enormous role in helping our community to survive such an event. The Salvage Chief is fitted with five generators that can provide over a million watts of ship-to-shore power for 45 days. The ship is able to provide a necessary field hospital, can filter up to 3,000 gallons of potable 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 people in Clatsop County.

Support for The Salvage Chief from your committee is imperative. I urge you to support the efforts of The Salvage Chief foundation to repair and upgrade this important vessel.

Sincere Regards,

Sean Fitzpatrick, Mayor  
City of Astoria