



March 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal, and World Affairs
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE - Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Letter of Support for the Salvage Chief – SB 2

Dear Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **Astoria Uppertown Business Association (AUBA)**, I am writing in strong support of **SB 2**, which aims to secure funding and recognition for the continued operation and preservation of the historic **Salvage Chief**. As a nonprofit dedicated to fostering economic growth and cultural heritage in Uppertown Astoria, we recognize the vital role this vessel plays in Oregon's maritime industry, emergency response capacity, and historical preservation.

The **Salvage Chief** has served as a critical asset in marine rescue and recovery operations, demonstrating time and again its unique capability to support disaster relief, commercial navigation, and national security interests. Beyond its operational significance, the vessel represents a key part of Oregon's maritime history, directly tied to the legacy of the Columbia River and the shipbuilding industry that shaped our coastal communities.

Astoria's economy is deeply connected to its maritime and tourism industries, and the **Salvage Chief** serves as a living piece of history that attracts visitors and educational opportunities. Preserving and maintaining this vessel not only ensures future emergency response readiness but also enhances economic development through heritage tourism and workforce training programs.

We urge the Oregon Legislature to pass **SB 2** and allocate the necessary resources to maintain and operate the **Salvage Chief**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey Stahl

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