



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

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MEDIA RELEASE – NOTICE

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Commissioner Hall attended NACo Legislative Conference

Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall has returned from Washington, D.C., where he was one of thirty-three elected county officials from the state to attend the annual Legislative Conference of the National Association of Counties (NACo). Hall is second vice president of the Oregon Association of Counties (AOC).

“It was a great opportunity to learn, network, and meet with members of the Oregon Congressional delegation and their staffs,” said Hall. “I had one perfectly timed opportunity on Wednesday (Feb. 25), when I was part of a group that spoke with Rep. Peter DeFazio right before he went into a hearing on the Coast Guard budget.”

DeFazio is the ranking member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, putting him in a key position to influence the Coast Guard’s spending priorities. Hall said he was able to alert DeFazio and a member of his staff of the data about the Newport Coast Guard Helicopter’s record of lifesaving effectiveness recently compiled by the Surfrider Foundation. DeFazio asked for a copy of the information to take into the hearing.

“He promised our group that he would work to get specific language in the bill protecting the Newport helicopter, or, failing that, a provision directing that the Coast Guard’s lifesaving mission not be compromised by budgetary issues.”

Hall and other commissioners spent three days in committee meetings and workshops, as well as hearing from speakers, including U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, who began his public career at the county level, told the group that counties are “the most important and least appreciated form of government” in the country.

Hall has applied for membership on NACo’s committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. Currently, Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel is the only Oregon representative on that panel. “Commissioner McKeel will leave office at the end of next year, and I think it’s important Oregon continue to have a voice on that group.”

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