

TILLAMOOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"To Serve and Protect"



Sheriff Andy Long

April 18, 2013

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to communicate my support of Scott Bakker and the Friends of Guardians From Above, Inc. Mr. Bakker, through Friends of Guardians From Above, has assisted Tillamook County in numerous Full-Scale Earthquake and Tsunami Exercises by flying their aircraft, at no expense to the county, utilizing a new notification technique, the Power Sonix airborne speaker system. He provided assistance and guidance to the Director of Emergency Management which was instrumental in the County receiving a Federal Grant that allowed the county to receive several of these systems that are now in Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Aircraft who will fly these aircraft to notify the entire Oregon Coast during future Tsunami events.

Our new concern is the budget cutbacks which may impact the CAP ability to accomplish this new mission. The Guardian's SkyMaster Model C-337 aircraft currently in operation currently has a wide range of capabilities, including filling in any gaps from the CAP Missions. It is a perfect fit for the various other types of rescue missions affecting the smaller Oregon Coastal Communities with smaller runways. In addition to providing tsunami warning messages to citizens, should we have the, "Big One", the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, where many of our local communities would be cut off due to all the road damage, a smaller aircraft such as this will be vital in personnel and supply movement.

The proposed allocation of a C-27 Spartan Medium Cargo aircraft is an excellent use of this type craft. This aircraft could be used for a large variety of rescue missions, especially immediately after a Cascadia Subduction Zone Quake. These include bringing in much needed food, water, medical supplies, essential personnel, medevac, and general transport into and out of the area. As many of the coastal communities have smaller, shorter runways, this aircraft would be ideal for this type event.

The Guardian Group has flown many hours in support of Tillamook County Preparedness and training in the past few years, and for this we are truly grateful. We are also aware of other humanitarian flights and search and rescue efforts up and down the Oregon Coast that has positively saved lives as outlined in various Oregon media sources.

5995 Long Prairie Road Tillamook OR 97141

Phone (503) 842-2561 fax (503) 815-3399

Web <http://www.tillamooksheriff.org>

Thank you for considering the importance of this effort and recognizing the lifesaving capabilities this unit offers. The Friends of Guardians From Above, Inc. is definitely a source of services for public safety and Emergency/Homeland Security Operations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andy Long
Sheriff, Tillamook County