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January 5, 2012

Mr. David Kronsteiner, Commission President  
Board of Commissioners of the International Port of Coos Bay  
2222 Broadway Avenue  
North Bend, OR 97459

Dear Mr. Kronsteiner,

I was incensed at the notice that indicated a “special” meeting of the Port Commission to revisit the decision of the local committee regarding siting a marine reserve at Cape Arago. Was the original decision to be overturned for some reason?

Sport fishing groups around the state followed closely, and applauded the over 2/3 vote of local representatives to say “No, the reserve would have a negative influence on our economy.” This is exactly the direction given to ODFW and the widely diverse members of that group by Governor Kulongoski. If ANY economic hardship would be felt by the community, then there should be no area set aside.

I have worked on conservation projects in marine reserves in several places around the world. Those reserves were founded to help recovery of various endangered species. However there are no resident species that are listed as either “endangered” or “threatened” in Cape Arago- or along the entire Southern Oregon coast! There is no planned research to indicate whether or not a reserve would be beneficial to any particular species that resides there.

These radical environmental groups pushing you to rescind your decision must be heard, and then told that your local citizens have already spoken.

Oregon Anglers, the Coastal Conservation Association, the Steelheaders, and the Recreational Fishing Alliance have all indicated their objection to more marine reserves. The decision made last year in Coos Bay was legal, and procedures correctly followed.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dennis Richey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Richey, Executive Director