

The Newsroom
Attn: Editorial Page Editor
P.O. Box 1277
Bellingham, WA 98225

Aug. 25, 2009

To the Editor:

The recession that started on Wall Street has made it all the way to Railroad and Holly streets. We all supported the Port of Bellingham's application for the relocation of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Operations Center from Lake Union in Seattle to Bellingham Bay.

The 200-plus jobs and the investments in our community would reinvigorate our waterfront. We believe the preliminary decision by NOAA to relocate to Newport, Ore., over Bellingham may be flawed, and we want to make sure the port has the opportunity to have its questions answered before NOAA moves forward.

This is a critical juncture for our community. We're encouraged that the Port Commission has a chance to appeal the NOAA site decision. While there's no guarantee that Bellingham will be the victor after the appeal process, we can never know unless we give it our best effort. We encourage the Port Commissioners to submit the letter required this week to start the process.

Landing NOAA in Bellingham is a mission we all should be behind. We're ready to stand with our Port Commissioners to fight for Bellingham and the Whatcom County area by appealing NOAA's decision.

Sincerely,

Sen. Kevin Ranker, 40th district
Sen. Dale Brandland, 42nd district
Rep. Jeff Morris, 40th district
Mayor Dan Pike, City of Bellingham
Tim Douglas, Former Mayor of Bellingham
Ken Oplinger, President/CEO Bellingham Whatcom Chamber of Commerce

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