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Coastal Caucus members reach out to financial institutions for assistance in wake of government shutdown

SALEM – Members of the Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus are reaching out to local credit unions and banks to find assistance for unpaid federal workers along the Oregon Coast, particularly the United States Coast Guard members bravely protecting our coastline.

As the federal shutdown enters its fifth week, 1,135 active duty Coast Guard members and 138 reservists on the Oregon Coast remain on the job, but unpaid. Members of the Coastal Caucus have been working with local banks and credit unions that now are providing short-term relief and financial support.

"We owe so much to the brave men and women of the Coast Guard and other critical federal employees," Johnson said. "I'm happy we were able to contact our financial institutions and am grateful they have answered our calls for help."

The Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus is a bicameral, bipartisan group of state senators and representatives whose districts include portions of the Oregon Coast. They work to address the issues that affect coastal and rural Oregon.

"These men and women are risking their lives each and every day," Rep. David Gomberg, D-Central Coast, said. "That they show up to work without compensation is a credit to their bravery and professional commitment. But it also is a shocking reflection of how our federal government has let them down. We need to do better than GoFundMe accounts and garage sales."

The efforts have resulted in numerous no-interest and low-interest loans being offered up and down the coast – and all over the state – to help these public servants get by during the government shutdown. Multiple financial institutions are stepping up to help. Federal employees should contact their current financial institutions to inquire about assistance.

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