

News and Information from **Oregon International Port of Coos Bay and Stebbins & Coffey, Attorneys at Law**

For Immediate Release: Aug. 2, 2010

Port of Coos Bay hiring chief operating officer

The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay is hiring North Bend attorney David R. Koch to serve as its chief operating officer. Koch has practiced as an associate attorney since 2006 with North Bend-based Stebbins & Coffey, Attorneys at Law, where he handles legal issues for the Port and several other public entities.

The Port increasingly is tasked with complex land use, environmental and permitting processes. Koch's move to the Port will allow the agency to bring these specialized legal services in-house. With the impending start up of the Coos Bay Rail Link, he will oversee renegotiation of railroad easements and agreements. He'll also advise and represent the Port through state land use and permitting procedures.

"We've come to the realization that the complexities of the work we are involved in are inexorably entangled in complex legal issues. Having qualified staff capable of understanding and working proactively in this area has immense value. Mr. Koch's background in law, transportation and environmental issues provides a unique skill set at this critical time in the Port's development," said Port Executive Director Jeff Bishop.

Prior to his tenure at Stebbins & Coffey, Koch provided legal counsel to Coos County from 2002-06. He also was an attorney-advisor with the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., serving in the General Counsel's Office for Environmental, Civil Rights and General Law. A graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law, Koch also has a master's degree in environmental studies.

"We see this as a great opportunity for David, the Port and our community to have someone of David's caliber working toward the economic development of our area," said Mike Stebbins. "It is always tough when your organization loses someone of his abilities, but it is a win for the overall community. We will continue as outside counsel for the Port and the other public entities we have represented on the southwestern Oregon coast over the years."

The Port anticipates Koch will start in the position within the next two to three months.

###

For additional media information, please contact:

Elise Hamner, Communications and Community Affairs Manager
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Phone 541 267-7678 / Email ehamner@portofcoosbay.com

