



April 19, 2019

Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE,
Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

This letter is written in support of the \$1.5 million lottery funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District's joint project to construct a new fire station/city hall/community center.

The Mosier area community has long been a dedicated provider of services to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. These services include fire protection, emergency medical response, emergency sheltering and various community support functions, all of which are valued by many thousands of area residents and the estimated 3.5 million visitors that Travel Oregon reports experiencing The Gorge/Mt. Hood region in 2018. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced once the project is completed.

We encourage the Subcommittee to include funding for the Mosier Center in HB 5030. In addition to the \$1.1 million that Mosier has raised to date from its own sources and through local fundraising, State funding will enable a center capable of supporting local economic vitality and regional safety needs for the long term.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bonham
State Representative, House District 59

Cliff Bentz
State Senator, Senate District 30



**Mosier, Oregon:
Small Enough To
Make A Difference**

Support the Construction of the **MOSIER CENTER** FIRE STATION | CITY HALL | COMMUNITY SPACE *A facility to support regional safety & vitality in the heart of the Gorge*

This project will provide:

Regional Fire Support Mosier is a small but growing town that sits between and supports the larger towns of The Dalles & Hood River as well as the other communities in the region via Mutual Aid agreements. This facility will allow the department to park its modern trucks and give the volunteers a place to clean equipment without leaving town.

Freeway EMT Support Located along I84, Mosier Fire also regularly helps accidents and helps motorists in need along the freeway, at the rest stops and within Memaloose State Park. The facility will provide much needed space for ongoing medical training.

Ability to serve as 'Command Central' for Emergencies Mosier Fire has hosted several conflagrations in the last decade including the Microwave Fire in 2011, the Oil Train Derailment in 2016, and the two separate Memaloose fires in July. With the growing fire dangers in the area we are likely to host even more of these in the coming decades. The location is also a key communication and check point in our local emergency plans.

Public Works Facility Storage and City Hall Our current City Hall is 10' x 22'.

Regional Tourism Infrastructure Located on the Historic Scenic Hwy, the new center will provide information, restrooms & services for the 2 million tourists who travel through the Gorge each year. These numbers grow each year and nearly doubled in our town last summer due to the Eagle Creek Fire pushing additional hikers into our area.

Economic Development Opportunities The building will include a commercial kitchen with flex space for developing farm to table food products from our Agriculture community as well as innovative creative services. Rural incubators are the new garage.

Community Gathering Space for Wider Valley & Regional Partners Mosier is the civic and social hub for over 2000 residents and many community organizations in the wider valley. The new building will include meeting spaces, kitchen use for events, and a home for the Mosier Valley Historical Society's extensive collection of photos and artifacts.

Food Pantry & Space for Emergency Shelter Food insecurity is an issue in Gorge and 98% of the region's food is shipped in by truck. These features provide public support in case I84 is closed off for an extended period.

Environmental Sustainability via Net Zero Public Building Net Zero not only addresses our goal of protecting and enhancing the environment, it will help tackle ongoing maintenance costs and will allow us to continue to serve the region in times of power outage or natural disaster such as the anticipated Cascadia Earthquake.

Mosier is in the unique position to fulfill the dire need for modern firefighting facilities, tourism support, and community services between the larger towns of The Dalles & Hood River.

COST: \$3 – 3.5 Million
RAISED TO DATE: \$1.1 Million
FUNDS REQUEST: \$2 Million
CONSTRUCTION 2020