

April 18, 2019

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair **Representative Paul Holvey, 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 Senator Girod and Representative Holvey,

This letter is written in support of the lottery funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District joint project to construct a new fire station/city hall/community center. As an important partner with the Columbia River Gorge Commission, the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District play a critical role for public health and safety.

The Mosier area community has long been a dedicated provider of services in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. 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 untold numbers of travelers through the I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced once the project is completed. With both an increase in fire danger, and the increase of tourism and visitors now numbering more than 2.5 million per year, many of whom stop and recreate in and around Mosier, the urgent need is there to increase their capacity.

I encourage the Subcommittee to include funding for the project in HB 5030. In addition to the funds that Mosier has in hand that will bring from their own sources and through local fundraising. state funding will enable success and long-term benefits of the new facility.

Kuptyna U. Welmakouski

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski **Executive Director**