

MID-COLUMBIA



FIRE &
RESCUE

1400 West Eighth Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058
541-296-9445 • Fax: 541-296-8656

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.

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 untold numbers of travelers through the I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced upon completion of this important project.

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

Sincerely,

Robert F. Palmer
Fire Chief

DATE: 18 April 2019
TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee and Subcommittee on Capital Construction
FROM: Terry Moore, Wasco County Economic Development Commission
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE MOSIER COMMUNITY CENTER

I am writing in support of State contributions to the costs of building a new community center in Mosier. The center would primarily serve as a fire station and city hall.

I am a resident of Wasco County, and live ¼ mile from the Mosier city limits. I am a founding principal of ECONorthwest, a Oregon-based consulting firm on public policy, including land use and development, public finance, and economic development. I am a member of the Wasco County Economic Development Commission. I was the chairperson of Team Mosier, and the principal negotiator for our settlement with Union Pacific after the Mosier derailment and fire. I am the facilitator for a committee of elected officials working on siting, designing, funding, and building the new center.

My experience in those capacities gives me several reasons to encourage state funding for a small community:

- The risks of wildfire have become increasingly apparent in the Gorge in the last 10 years: more risk of fire, more risk of large fire because of less moisture and more fuel load, more people and property exposed to that risk. The Microwave and Union Pacific Fires both got to Mosier's doorstep. It is no exaggeration to say that with slightly different weather conditions, the whole town could have been lost. The Eagle Creek Fire showed how extensive the damage of a single human error can be. The Columbia Gorge needs more, better, and more dispersed fire-fighting capabilities.

A station in Mosier benefits more than Mosier residents. It can and should contribute to a network of fire-fighting and emergency-response capabilities that serve the entire Gorge. The natural attributes of the Gorge provide regional and statewide benefits. The protection of those attributes should be supported by regional and statewide funding—rural areas simply do not have the number of households or the levels of income to fund the proper level of protection on their own.

- Mosier responded strongly and positively to the Union Pacific derailment and fire. It steered clear of litigation, organized local service providers, and worked for 18 months with Union Pacific to get to a settlement that all parties could accept. Part of that settlement was almost \$1 million earmarked for land, equipment, and buildings for firefighting. The City and Mosier Fire District worked hard to get to agreement on supporting a joint-use building: one that could serve multiple community purposes, stimulate economic development, and save costs by getting multiple use of base facilities. The City and Fire District leveraged the Union Pacific funds by pursuing state funding.
- The Wasco County Economic Development Commission (EDC) annual ranks projects that local governments hope to advance. The ranking is based on their potential economic

development impacts, but also on their readiness. The Mosier Community Center has ranked in the top 10 for three years, and was number 1 in 2018. The EDC believes what Mosier does: that the Community Center is a critical piece of public infrastructure not only for the fire protection it provides, but for the stimulus it gives to redevelopment in the surrounding blocks of the downtown.

- The efforts of this small city (population, 430; motto, “small enough to make a difference”) are out of proportion to its size. Fifty to 80 people at public meetings about the derailment and community center translate into attendance by around 25% of the City’s voters. Years of volunteer work have gone into public engagement and discussion; into refining, discussing, and refining again the needs and the facility types and designs that best address those needs.

Mosier has done and will continue to do its share, a part of which is seeking help from others. It is not asking for the State to give it a new facility. It is asking that the State weigh against its purposes and opportunities the importance of a facility essential to the protection of lives, property, and nature in an area with international recognition for natural beauty.

Thank you for your work and your consideration.

Terry Moore

Wasco County Economic Development Commission
Wasco County, OR



BUILDING AMERICA®

April 17, 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

Re: HB 5030 lottery funding for Mosier fire station/city hall community center

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey:

Union Pacific Railroad is a longtime City of Mosier partner and writes this letter in support of the lottery funding request for Mosier's project to construct a new fire station/city hall/community center.

The Mosier area community has a history as a dedicated service provider to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. Services include fire protection, emergency medical response, emergency sheltering and various community support functions valued by many thousands of area residents and I-84/Columbia Gorge corridor travelers. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced upon project completion.

Union Pacific encourages the Subcommittee to include funding for the Mosier project in the 2019 legislative process. State funding will buttress funds Mosier has in hand as well as funds the City will bring to the project and local fundraising. State funding will give the community access to the long-term benefits of the new facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Hunt".

Aaron Hunt

cc:

Arlene Burns, Mosier Mayor
Clint Schelbitzki, Union Pacific
Dana Pompetti, Union Pacific



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

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

April 17, 2019

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey,

The Wasco County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the City of Mosier and Mosier Fires District's request for lottery funding supporting their joint project to construct a new combination fire station/city hall/community center.

The Mosier area community is a long-time provider of services to the north central region of Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. These essential services include fire protection, emergency medical response and emergency shelter along with various community support functions; all of which are valued by thousands of area residents and countless travelers making their way through the Columbia Gorge Corridor on 1-84. Mosier's ability to continue these services will be greatly enhanced through this project.

We encourage the Subcommittee to include funding through HB 5030 for this project which will benefit both area residents and Oregon tourists. Combined with existing funds, fund-raising efforts and other sources, State funding will ensure a successful project and long-term benefits from this new facility.

Sincerely,
Wasco County
Board of Commissioners



Steven D. Kramer, Chair



Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair



Kathleen B. Schwartz, County Commissioner



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1785 Meyer Parkway, Hood River, OR 97031 | HoodRiverFire.com
Office 541-386-3939 Fax 541-387-4590



17 April 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:

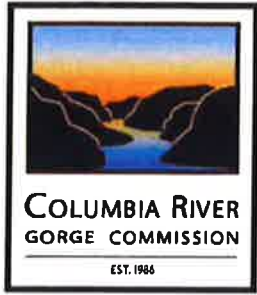
This letter is to request support of the lottery funding request for the City of Mosier and Mosier Fire District joint project to construct a new fire station/city hall/community center.

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 untold numbers of travelers through the I-84 and Columbia Gorge corridor. The ability for Mosier Fire District to continue these services will be greatly enhanced once the project is completed.

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

Sincerely,

Leonard Damian
Fire Chief
Hood River Fire & EMS



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.

Sincerely,

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski
Executive Director