

4/8/2023

Greetings legislators and fellow Oregonians,

My name is Brian Wagner and I live in Gervais Oregon. I am honored to represent the Woodburn Fire District's all volunteer 50-member Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). I am respectfully asking for your support in funding the construction of the Gervais Fire Station and Regional Disaster Preparedness Facility. I am sure you already have plenty of information regarding this request and what it will provide. I would like to emphasize though that this is not a want, this is a need.

When, not if, the next regional disaster happens, most, if not all, federal and state resources will be deployed to the larger cities. This makes sense, however, this also leaves the outlying smaller communities to fend for themselves for up to weeks, if not months depending on the severity of damage to the regions infrastructure.

Saving lives in any type of large-scale disaster is not a matter of days or hours, its minutes, and seconds. Having a well trained and equipped volunteer CERT team mobilized, to deal with low level emergencies, first aid, shelter, and general public assistance frees up first responders for the critical emergency calls. Unlike what we have seen recently nationwide with larger Emergency Management organizations, CERT once activated can be boots on the ground helping our communities within hours, not days or weeks.

Funding for the Gervais Fire Station and Regional Disaster Facility will provide a means for immediately mobilizing emergency fuel for first responders, public works vehicles and emergency generators at critical government buildings. Water and other emergency supplies can also be stored and distributed from this facility. A potable water distribution trailer provided by OEM will be stored and operated from this facility. This facility will strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of medium to large scale emergencies for decades to come.

As Benjamin Franklin once stated: *By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.*

Thank you for your time and please consider funding the Gervais Fire Station project to better serve and support your smaller outlying communities.



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