

Submitter: Robin Loznak
On Behalf Of: Kellogg Rural Fire District
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear honorable members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I'm writing in support of proposed funding to be allocated for the construction of a centralized fire station for the Kellogg Rural Fire District located in northern Douglas County.

I'm a citizen of the district and a volunteer at the fire department. Currently the "fire station" I use is a ramshackle two bay pole barn. The barn has no toilet facility, no storage, no meeting facility and getting the fire truck and water truck in and out of the building is challenging at best. The roof leaks and the building is infested with bats and rodents. We don't have room in the barn for all of our equipment with some gear parked outside in the rain, snow, and sun.

Our district spreads for miles along the Umpqua River between Sutherlin and Elkton. We have a rural population living in isolated hamlets and farms. Much of our district is heavily forested. State Highway 138 West bisects the district. For much of the folks living in our area it's a good 25 minutes from the nearest ambulance.

Wildfire is a huge concern and with the recent droughts and warming climate the problem will only get worse. Last year I responded with our aging brush truck to a blaze along Highway 138 West which had the potential to have caused massive damage. With our training, and a bit of luck, we stopped the blaze with our initial attack.

Having a functioning centralized fire station would be a great boon to our community. As firefighters we would have a place to train, prepare, and standby for emergencies. As a community we could have a center for meetings, events, and educational get togethers.

Thank you for your consideration,
Robin Loznak
Kellogg, Oregon