

Submitter: John Rickenbach
On Behalf Of: Kellogg Rural Fire Department
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Honorable Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

This letter is in support of funding the Kellogg Rural Fire District (KRFD) Main Fire Station located in Douglas County from a KRFD firefighter and local area resident. The Main Fire Station project has been in progress for the last eighteen years due to very limited funding. The project currently has significant sitework done and preliminary building plans.

KRFD is a large, spread-out district with low funding due to a limited tax base. KRFD serves the biggest part of 138W with over 24,000 people passing through the district as the primary route to the Oregon Dunes from the south. We also fight wildland fires in a large, wooded area which are dangerous due to the prevailing winds off the coast.

Our current fire station is a 30' X 30' leased pole barn which has only two apparatus bays and no training room, restroom, or equipment storage. The roof of the very old building leaks and the building has no insulation to hold in heat. The driveway to the station is steep and often muddy.

Regardless, we are a dedicated, hard working volunteer group that takes pride in being prepared for the wide variety of emergencies that we must service including, structure fires, wildland fires, traffic accidents, vehicle extractions, water rescue, medical emergencies, and other. Training at the station consists of moving a fire truck out and working where the fire truck was parked, without the normal facilities and equipment used in training. Much of the KRFD equipment must be parked outside which results in higher maintenance cost.

Funding the Main Fire Station will have significant benefits to the community. As well as giving the firefighters a safe place to train and store equipment, the station will also function as a much-needed community gathering place for natural disasters, Firewise meetings, and other community functions.

As firefighters, we cross train with other fire districts in the greater Roseburg area. It is difficult to see the rich resources that these other districts have in comparison to KRFD even though KRFD is expected to provide the same (and often more) services to our area.

Please support the capitol funding needed to finish the KRFD station and bring the

Kellogg Fire District up to reasonable standards.

Sincerely,
John Rickenbach