

Submitter: Bill Ocumpaugh
On Behalf Of: Kellogg Rural Fire District 2800
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

This letter is in support of funding for the Kellogg Rural Fire District (2800) to secure funding from the State of Oregon to construct a main fire Station in the District. Currently the Kellogg Rural Fire Department only has two small structures to store some of the fire equipment. Fire equipment needs to be stored out of the elements to keep it from deteriorating faster than it should, including protection of the equipment from freezing conditions. It is not like you can wait for the fire call to come in to fill the trucks with water. The Kellogg Fire Department is also the first responder for emergency issues that occur in the district. These emergency issues include (wildfires) forest, structure and vehicle fires and motor vehicle accidents and personal injury accidents that seem to be increasing with the passing of time. The residents often need help with issues such as falls and other non-life-threatening events. District volunteers respond to such 911 calls on a regular basis. The district needs to construct The Main Station Fire Hall as a Standard Fire Station for the District that serves thousands of residences and hundreds of folks that pass through the district daily going to and from the Oregon Coast. The Fire Hall would be the only structure in the district that would provide fire and safety training for the volunteers. The district currently lacks anything that would serve as an emergency center during a catastrophic event. The Main Station structure will provide fire mitigation, life and property protection and safety for volunteers and residents. Just because we live in a rural area does not mean we should be treated as second class citizens. We deserve the same quality of life and services as those in the urban areas of the State. The Kellogg Rural Fire Department needs to provide Fire and Safety services for the rural area the district serves. Our insurance company recently dropped our fire insurance coverage

because we lived
too far from the nearest Fire Station. Adding this structure would put us in
compliance. We were forced
to find a different insurance provider at a much higher cost.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. W. R. and M. R. Ocumpaugh
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