
Statement of Support HB2588

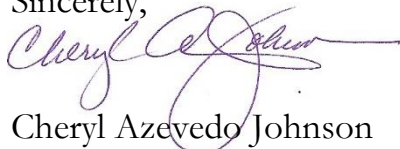
I am a member of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) in Cave Junction, OR. As a board member, I enthusiastically support HB2588, which would authorize \$984,500 to expand the City of Cave Junction water supply to our IVFD Station #1. This initiative would provide City supplied water to our main fire station with a dedicated hydrant. Additionally, more hydrants would be installed on the way to our station, which would benefit the residents in that area of the City of Cave Junction.

In the Illinois Valley, we are a rural fire district, in southwestern Oregon, that struggles to maintain adequate staffing and resources to respond to fires, motor vehicle accidents, and medical aid calls. We have six fire stations throughout our 144 square mile district, and none of our stations has hydrant supplied water. In the 2022 calendar year, we had over 1,700 calls for emergency response, and of those, nearly 500 were for fires. Our fires can be a small warming fire to an open burn to a flue fire to a structure fire to a wildland fire. Every fire depends on water for extinguishment. To have city supplied water at our station would greatly enhance our response ready time.

For IVFD, water is essential to providing critical emergency response to our community. Without water at our primary station, containment times for fires can be many minutes more. Additionally, for IVFD, it means having to obtain water for our engines from hydrants or stand pipes that are currently located in the city, or from standing storage tanks at our outlying stations. When dealing with fire, time is of the essence. Having a city water supply at the station would greatly benefit our community it what is typically a critical time of need for fire suppression.

On behalf of the Illinois Valley Fire District, I thank you for your support of HB2588.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Azevedo Johnson
Board Member
Illinois Valley Fire District

Cheryl Azevedo Johnson

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