

Submitter: Dann Cutter

On Behalf Of: Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue District

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Measure: HB5201

Honorable Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod, esteemed members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Dann Cutter, City Manager for the city of Waldport.

I am addressing you this afternoon on behalf of a joint task-force of the Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue District and the Waldport City Council, and at the behest of the Honorable Representative David Gomberg.

We are asking for the inclusion of a \$1.35 million dollar request to purchase and make improvements on a Fire Hall for the District located in Waldport.

There are times when one investment leads to a cascade of reinvestment and positive results. This is one such time.

The purchase of this fire hall will not only provide the District with a secure central station, but will free resources for the City to build a needed waterline from its large water tanks to the east... this required fire flow service expansion will then result in over 50 acres of residentially zoned property having the water necessary to begin development. Development which includes the first proposed multi family affordable housing project in Waldport in nearly 20 years.

We are not a wealthy region of the coastline. Our community is primarily retirees, most on fixed incomes. We are also the bedroom community for those working in the services jobs to the north and south of us.

Without this funding, the district and city will be mired with poor alternatives. While the district's local population numbers approximately 6,000, tens of thousands of your constituents visit this community each year - yet that transient income is locked into specific tourism funding requirements - and the bonds necessary to address the district's station need's will replace expenditures on actual equipment used to fight fires and to save lives.

This fire hall is the housing and operations center for those firefighters who are the first responders in the community. It supports those that run INTO the fire. Those that we count on... to pull us from the wreckage, to lift us from the rubble, and to save our lives.

I could talk about the jobs the new development would create, the needed affordable housing it would provide, the critical multiplier that expenditures have in an impoverished community. But mostly - it gives those we rely a home base. How often can you accomplish so much, for so few dollars?! Thank you.