

Honorable Members of the Oregon legislature

I am here today to express my strong support for the proposed infrastructure project to add living quarters to Central Douglas Fire & Rescue's existing unstaffed fire station in Umpqua Oregon. This project would significantly enhance our ability to respond to emergencies, support our Fire Science and Paramedic students and improve services in a rural area that is currently in desperate need and underserved.

Our community has a large number of seniors and the need for responsive and timely emergency services has increased just since we've moved here 9 years ago. Here are just a few examples of emergencies that if we had closer services we would have had quicker response times. We had a gentleman who tried to commit suicide and ended up in our backyard. It took paramedics and rescue almost half hour to get out here to help him. We had an elderly man up on Briar creek fall off the side of the road down into the brush. Thankfully we had a gurney and was able to hike him up and out while we waited a half hour for emergency services. This doesn't even include the fires we have had out here where a quick response would of helped. Not to mention our seniors who need help with medical needs or have fallen.

All of these emergencies could have had a quicker response time if we were utilizing our empty fire department here in Umpqua.

Completing this project will significantly enhance our ability to serve this underserved area for years to come while providing critical housing and having opportunities for students in the Umpqua Community College Fire and science paramedics program.

Thank you,

Michael and Julie Weiler