

**Scott McKnight**  
**Deputy Fire Chief**  
**Sutherlin Fire Department**  
**250 S. State St.**  
**Sutherlin OR 97479**  
**March 3, 2025**

Dear **Honorable members of the Oregon Legislature**,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Central Douglas Fire and Rescue proposed expansion of living quarters to the Umpqua Station. As the Deputy Fire Chief of Sutherlin Fire Department and Calapooia Rural Fire District, I understand the critical importance of having a well-equipped and operational fire department to ensure the safety and well-being of communities like Umpqua and its neighboring areas.

The Central Douglas Fire and Rescue has been serving the Umpqua Area since 1998, providing essential emergency services and protecting homes, businesses, and families. However, their current facilities are no longer adequate to meet the growing needs of the community. The proposed expansion project, which includes additional residential living quarters for student firefighters, is vital to enhancing their department's capabilities.

I believe that this expansion project is essential for the continued safety and resilience of the Umpqua Area and the neighboring Calapooia Fire District. I urge you to consider providing financial support to help make this project a reality. Your contribution will have a significant impact on their ability to serve and protect the community.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

**Scott McKnight**  
**Deputy Fire Chief**  
**Sutherlin Fire Department**