

## House Bill 3870

March 22, 2025

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue, I am writing to express my strong support for Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center, a critical public safety facility for the community.

Wasco County is the most active region for State Conflagration Fires in Oregon. The Mosier Center is an investment in both the safety and long-term economic resilience of Mosier. The Gorge region, including Mosier, is no stranger to the devastating costs of wildfires. Over the past several years, I have witnessed first-hand the severe impacts that wildfires can have on local communities, including the destruction of property and the disruption of local businesses. It is more important than ever to invest in improved fire safety infrastructure.

Mosier's current fire stations lack the space and size to accommodate modern equipment. Currently, Mosier has fire engines parked outside in the weather because they do not fit in the existing stations. The proposed Mosier Center will solve this issue and additionally serve as a critical resource for enhancing fire preparedness, response capabilities, and community resilience. This facility will be utilized in the event of a fire emergency, serving as a refuge and resource center for affected residents.

I fully support the request for this important project and encourage you to prioritize its funding. The Mosier Center, with its fire station, will be an invaluable asset, strengthening both the safety and public engagement in the Columbia Gorge region.

Respectfully Submitted,

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