

Testimony to House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans - Mosier Center

Chair Tran and Members of the Committee.

My name is Witt Anderson, Mayor of Mosier.

Together with the Mosier Fire District, the City strongly supports HB 3870 which would fund emergency and safety initiatives and facilities throughout the state. This bill provides final necessary funding for construction of our Mosier Center project.

This joint fire station and community center has been underway with fundraising and design since the 2016 UPRR oil train derailment — a near disaster for our community. In the last 5 years we have experienced 3 major wildland urban interface fires, with the Microwave Tower Fire last year once again causing significant damage and economic loss.

To be resilient and contend with emergencies in the future, we need facilities that meet contemporary standards.

We are shovel ready now with permits and contractor in place. To date we have raised 75 percent of required funding through grants, loans, local donations, and City and Fire District funds. The funding in HB 3870 would allow us to finally construct the project. Prior funds provided by the legislature have allowed us to progress to this point.

I emphasize that this request would allow us to bring the project to fruition with benefits accruing to north central Oregon for decades to come.

We thank you for your support.