

March 25, 2025

Senator Daniel Bonham  
900 Court St NE, S-323  
Salem, OR, 97301  
**Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov**  
**Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov**

Representative Jeff Helfrich  
900 Court St. NE, H-371,  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

I am writing to encourage your crucial support to the City of Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center.

As the former Mayor of Mosier, I have been involved in this project since its inception, which was even before the 2016 UPRR train derailment! The UPRR derailment reiterated how unprepared we are as a community and a region for responding to the ongoing threat of fire.

Mosier's reaction was unprecedented, choosing mediation over litigation to achieve a shared vision of a path forward that not only will enhance our community, but also our relationship with the railroad. Nearly a decade of tremendous effort from so many members of the community have gotten us very close to the finish line. We have obtained funds from the State, from community members, from DOE and DEQ, and were even written into the Federal Budget for USDA grant. We would have had the funds we needed, also with the scope reduced, if not for the residuals of Covid which caused a spike in prices that we have been chasing ever since.

The Mosier Center would not only provided enhanced fire protection to our region, but also a much needed community center which could serve as a warming shelter, provide a space for dehydrating and canning our local agricultural products, and also offer a much needed hub for the city, which now serves not only our residents, but also a constant (seasonal) onslaught of tourist from Portland, I-84 and beyond. Its a big stress for our tiny town.

Mosier strives to collaborate and seek creative solutions as often as we can, participating in county and state levels. A few years ago when a fire threatened the Google data center, Mosier volunteers were on the front line, defending the facility. And now with longer and hotter summers along with the fierce winds which define this place, fire danger is now a yearly existential reality.

The funds we are asking you for will ensure that we can finally manifest this decade long vision. This project will serve everyone in the region, also providing much needed meeting space in a central gorge location.

Without your support at this crucial moment, we really may not be able to proceed. Its strange to have put so much effort into something so important, and now be at this crux. So this is a plea, to please please lean in for the sake of Mosier, this project, and all the good will it represents. We ask you to support us in all ways possible, so we can also support our community and region. Although I am no longer serving our community in an official capacity, I am still very involved and understand the importance of this project.

Thank you for stepping up to serve as our representatives!

Sincerely,

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