

Matthew T. English
Sheriff
Brian Rockett
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Jamie Hepner
Parole and Probation Commander
Erica Stolhand
911 Commander

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Senator Daniel Bonham
900 Court St NE, S-323
Salem, OR, 97301

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

Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov

Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

I write to express Hood River County Emergency Management's strong support for Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center, a critical public safety facility and economic hub for the Columbia River Gorge region.

The growing complexity of emergency management in the Columbia River Gorge demands robust infrastructure. Wildfires, transportation accidents, and natural disasters increasingly require sophisticated, interconnected emergency response capabilities that extend far beyond county boundaries.

Mosier sits near the border between Hood River and Wasco Counties where the vegetation and climactic regions change from the deep fir forest to the drier scrub oak and pine in which wildfires are more frequent. Mosier is therefore well placed to manage incidents that are on county boundaries such as such as the Microwave Fire (2009), the Government Flats Fire Complex (2013), the Fir Mountain Fire (2020), and the Microwave Tower Fire (2024) amongst many other smaller fires.

Thus, the Mosier Center represents more than a local facility—it is a regional lifeline. These wildfires - and several other notable incidents, such as the Mosier train derailment - have demonstrated the critical need for a centralized emergency management location that can support multi-agency coordination and rapid response.

By investing in this facility, we are not just supporting Mosier but strengthening the entire region's ability to respond to and recover from potential emergencies. The center will serve as a testament to our commitment to collaborative, comprehensive emergency preparedness.

We fully support the request for this important project and encourage you to prioritize its funding. The Mosier Center will be an invaluable asset, critical to the safety, resilience, and economic stability of the entire Columbia River Gorge region.

Sincerely,

Charles Young
Hood River County Emergency Management

cc: Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonding) Analyst
LFO.CapitalProjectRequests@oregonlegislature.gov