

23 March 2025

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

I hope this note finds all is awesome for you both!

The City of Mosier is making a Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center, a joint use community facility that will include the Mosier Fire Department and EMS services, the city hall, a visitors' center, a food pantry and act as an emergency shelter. This facility is so needed and I strongly support this request.

My husband and I moved to Mosier in 2022 and live here full-time. We were drawn to the Gorge because of its beauty and sports, and chose Mosier as home because of its people and community. It's a place where you know your neighbors, and when you see someone you don't recognize you still smile and wave.

Through living here and volunteering at the annual festivals and Mosier Community School, we've come to know how awesome people can be. And we've seen firsthand the challenges the people and the City of Mosier deal with as a small town with a small revenue base. Right now, the City of Mosier and Fire Department is operating out of a scattering of outdated buildings and home offices.

Just this past summer, the Microwave Tower Fire broke out in Mosier just west of downtown. With no office or staging area, the Mosier Fire Department did a heroic job fighting the fire and coordinating the many outside agencies who came in to help. Friends were evacuated from their homes and found shelter in hotels or with friends. The power grid was shut down. Without refrigeration, thousands of dollars worth of food was lost by small businesses here. The city was without water for days until the reservoir pumps could be turned back on. Imagine the difference it can make if Mosier has a command center shared by the City of Mosier, Fire Department and EMS to coordinate efforts, get information out to the community and serve as the source for emergency food, water and shelter.

Even in calmer times, many in our community are still in need. Teachers at Mosier Community School started a "backpack program" to send food home with students after they noticed some of their kids were from food-insecure homes. The Oregon Food Bank is excited to help Mosier set up a food pantry - if a location can be found. The Mosier Center would be perfect for this.

To help us stay safe, healthy and all that is Mosier, please support the Mosier Center funding request - thank you and come visit us soon!

have a beautiful one!

okay!

Carrie

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