

March 24, 2025

Senator Daniel Bonham
900 Court St NE, S-323
Salem, Oregon 97301
Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov

Representative Jeff Helfrich
900 Court St NE, H-371
Salem, Oregon 97301
Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

We are writing to express our very strong support for the City of Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center, a critical public safety facility and economic hub for our community.

We have been in the Mosier area since 1985. During that time, we have seen an alarming increase in wildfire frequency plus intensity. We were impacted by the 2020 Mosier Creek Fire when it came onto our property and was within 150 yards of our home. Five years later we are still dealing with damage to our land and attempting to rehabilitate the property from this destructive fire.

On a more positive note, the area has become a recreation draw for both local residents and non-resident users. While hiking is often cited, as cyclists we can attest to a large increase in cyclists, especially electric and gravel bike riding. The local economy is boosted by these users, especially from electric bike tour groups who frequent our local restaurant, café, and store. Backroads, a company that offers biking tours around the world, even has guided tours through the Mosier area. But increasing numbers of people recreating during peak wildfire season, underscores the need to have local services, and interagency coordination, such as the EMS, firefighting services, and incident command center proposed in the Mosier Center plan.

The Mosier Center would also house a cooling center and food assistance. Like many rural areas, Mosier has citizens who experience food insecurities, as well as an aging population. We worry about our neighbors who do not have AC when temperatures in the summer are over 100 degrees. Some neighbors experience challenges living in higher elevations and can be snowed in for weeks at a time. These concerns would be alleviated knowing there was a local resource who knew the population, and could aid with EMS services, food, cooling, or even heating during power outages in the winter.

Thank You for considering our community's request to fund \$2.5million for the Mosier Center. The community has worked very hard to raise funding to make this happen, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kathi and John Sleavin
1932 Further Valley Road
Mosier, Oregon