

Senator Daniel Bonham
Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov

Representative Jeff Helfrich
Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Mosier Center Capital Construction Request - HB3870

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

I am writing to express our 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 our community. This is part of HB3870, which is currently being considered by the legislature, as a result of your leadership.

As long-time residents and property owners in Mosier, we have made a substantial contribution to the capital campaign that is being led by Mayor Witt Anderson and others for this project.

The Mosier Center is an investment in both the safety and long-term economic resilience of Mosier and the entire Columbia Gorge. The Gorge region, including Mosier, is no stranger to the devastating costs of wildfires. Over the past several years, we have witnessed first-hand the severe impacts that wildfires can have on local communities, including the destruction of property, loss of critical infrastructure, and the disruption of local businesses. It is more important than ever to invest in improved fire safety infrastructure.

The proposed Mosier Center will serve as a critical resource for enhancing fire preparedness, response capabilities, and community resilience. This facility will be utilized in the event of a fire emergency, serving as a refuge and resource center for affected residents.

The dual purpose of the community center first as shelter and basic needs during emergencies, also serves as a resource for both tourists and local businesses. By offering a dedicated space for visitor information and public meeting facilities, Mosier Center will serve as a central hub for those looking to explore the area and to learn about the rich history of Mosier. It will help bridge the gap between the influx of visitors and the small businesses that depend on their patronage.

We fully support the request for this important project and encourage you to prioritize its funding. The Mosier Center, with its fire station, will be an invaluable asset, strengthening both the safety and economic vitality of the Columbia Gorge region.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Rowe & Bennett Burns
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