



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

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

The Wasco County Board of Commissioners enthusiastically supports the \$2.5 million Capital Construction request for the Mosier Center which we consider a critically needed facility to ensure the public safety and economic development of Mosier and its surrounding area.

The importance of fire preparedness is clear from both the high level of danger identified in the drafts of the State Fire Maps and by the recent history of severe forest fires that have encroached very close to the community. The proposed facility will serve both as a staging location for fire crews and their equipment and as a refuge and resource center for local residents in need of emergency shelter.

The design of the facility also enables it to function as a tourist information center directing tourists to local businesses, relating the history of Mosier, and promoting recreational opportunities in the Gorge. As it strengthens the tourism economy, the center also unites the permanent residents around a resource that serves everyone.

We commend the City of Mosier for planning a building that will accomplish multiple essential goals in one efficient facility. We encourage you to support this critical infrastructure that will enable Mosier to be a welcoming, safe, and economically vital place to live and recreate in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge.

Sincerely,

Wasco County Board of Commissioners

Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair

Philip L. Brady, Vice Chair

Jeff Justesen, Commissioner