

March 26, 2025

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

[Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov)

[Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov)

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

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

On behalf of our family, Steve Williams, Janet Schroer and our three adult children, Matt, Peter and John Williams. we are 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.

We have been members of the Mosier community for over a decade. We have lived through the Union Pacific railroad fire and were evacuated for nearly a week with the most recent Radio Tower fire of 2024. Over these rough times, we have witnessed first-hand the amazing dedication and leadership of our Mosier fire crew and Mosier City leaders. But the lack of, and need for, a community center for Mosier was clearly demonstrated by those events, where there were not adequate facilities to deal with sheltering anyone, or to handle the necessary meetings and coordination.

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. As noted, 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. Recognizing this, we have donated significant personal funds to the Mosier Center project ourselves, as have many of our neighbors, knowing how important it is to the community's well-being.

The proposed Mosier Center will serve as a critical resource for enhancing fire preparedness, response capabilities, and community meetings and coordination when wildfires and other disasters such as the Union Pacific fire occur. 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 support.

Sincerely,  
*Janet Schroer and Stephen Williams*

Janet Schroer & Stephen Williams  
863 Feldspar Drive, Mosier OR

cc: Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonding) Analyst  
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