

March 27, 2025

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,

I am writing to express my 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.

I bought property just outside the Mosier city limits in 1987 as a young man, then built a house there in the mid-90s, and have made my home there ever since. I am now a retired professional and am thankful every day for my life here.

I have watched the area grow into a flourishing, small, quintessential Oregon community where neighbors all watch out for one another and appreciate the quality of life the Mosier has to offer. Services have gone from nearly none to a vibrant market, restaurants, an excellent school, wineries, salons, nurseries, and more. However, during this time, I have had several close calls with wildfires threatening my home, including one that was started by a train derailment. These threats continue and are a critical concern today.

The Mosier Center would be a wise 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.

I 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. I realize there are many deserving projects you must consider for limited available funding. But knowing how much careful planning has gone into this project and the many sources of funding it has received already, including my own contributions, I am certain it will be money well spent that will continue to give back to our community for decades.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

With respect and admiration,

/ signed /

Steve Cain
822 Granite Drive

cc: Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonding) Analyst
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