



March 26, 2025

Representative Thuy Tran, Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3870 – South Hillsboro Fire Station Funding

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Hillsboro, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 3870, which would make critical investments to strengthen emergency services, community resiliency and public safety infrastructure across Oregon and specifically directs \$5 million to support the development of the South Hillsboro (SoHi) Fire Station 9.

Hillsboro is a diverse and growing community. In the South Hillsboro neighborhood, families are staking roots in planned communities imbued with lush greenways, inclusive parks for play and celebration, and centrally located services. To support this expansive growth and maintain reliable emergency services to our community, the Hillsboro Fire & Rescue Department will build a new fire station in the heart of the South Hillsboro neighborhood at the corner of SE Butternut Parkway and SE Deline Street. As its sixth strategically located fire station in Hillsboro, it will provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical care in coordination with nearby Brookwood Fire Station 2 and Main Station 1 in Downtown Hillsboro.

The SoHi Fire Station is also designed to be an essential facility that will serve as both a Building Division Department Operations Center (DOC) and Emergency Operations Center to be activated during a disaster to aid in the community's recovery. The Building Division will work closely with Fire & Rescue to identify structural hazards and help the community recover from the disaster's impact. The facility is designed for immediate occupancy after a large seismic event and includes a diesel generator, a fuel island, and a water well providing emergency water for drinking, hygiene, and fire operations. The water well, generator, and fuel storage will enable the building to be operational for a minimum of 3 weeks until power and fuel sources are available.

Hillsboro's newest fire station is at the beginning stage of construction and part of a larger fire and rescue master plan for the City. While Hillsboro works to meet the needs of our growing community with the SoHi Fire Station, it also faces a deficit due to other escalating costs, including the relocation of an established fire station to better serve more vulnerable communities and \$13 million in additional costs to replace fire apparatus, a rising cost for many communities. Thus, a modest state investment towards the SoHi Fire Station will also further the City's overall fire and rescue goals to benefit the entire community.

We commend the bill sponsors and this committee for prioritizing Oregon's public safety infrastructure and urge you and your colleagues to support HB 3870.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gurske, Deputy Chief
Fire & Rescue Department