



March 26, 2025

Re: House Bill 3870

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the City of Medford, Fire Chief Eric Thompson, Police Chief Justin Ivens, and Emergency Manager Aaron Ott, I write in strong support of House Bill 3870. The proposed appropriations outlined in the bill will directly and significantly strengthen emergency services across Southern Oregon—investments that are critical to the health, safety, and resiliency of our region.

Medford's public safety agencies depend on Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECSO) to effectively dispatch and coordinate emergency response throughout our community. The following investments in HB 3870 will dramatically improve system reliability and service delivery:

- **Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECSO) – Base Station Radios (\$133,000):** This funding will support the purchase of critical base station radios, strengthening communication infrastructure for dispatch operations.
- **ECSO – Radio Management and Programming Systems (\$633,000):** These systems will allow for more efficient over-the-air updates and streamlined management of public safety radio networks.
- **ECSO – Emergency Dispatch Systems (\$253,000):** Upgrades to emergency dispatch systems are essential for ensuring reliable, real-time coordination between agencies during emergencies.
- **ECSO – Solar Power for Radio Towers (\$305,000):** Installing solar energy generation equipment at tower sites will improve system resiliency and maintain communications during power outages.

We are also in strong support of:

- **Jackson County – Sobering Center Design and Construction (\$2,800,000):** This facility will provide essential services for individuals in crisis while reducing the strain on local emergency departments, law enforcement, and jail resources.



Our region's ability to respond effectively to emergencies depends on having modern, well-resourced infrastructure. These investments directly support the safety of the residents we serve every day. We respectfully urge your support of HB 3870 and the vital resources it provides for Southern Oregon.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Field

City Manager, City of Medford

Eric Thompson

Fire Chief, Medford Fire Department

Justin Ivens

Chief of Police, Medford Police Department

Aaron Ott

Emergency Manager, City of Medford