

Submitter: Brian Stewart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3870

To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of 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 residents in Mosier for many years and appreciate its quiet beauty and the small but vibrant community. Our home was nearly destroyed by the Mosier Creek fire in 2020 and surely would have been without the brave and hard work of our local fire teams. Nearly every year there have been close calls with wildfires in our area, including last summer where homes were again threatened and eventually protected from destruction. The Mosier Fire Department has been a literal lifesaver working with other regional fire fighting organizations to protect property and lives in our very dry environment. Mosier has been growing steadily and attracts a large population of recreational visitors which puts every increasing pressure on this small crew to stay on top of fire dangers.

We are so excited to see the plans for the long overdue Mosier Center which will provide a modern update to our small fire station and add the ability to serve as a regional training center and command center for the essential coordination of fire operations in the area during emergencies. This center will also provide information and support to the multitude of visitors who flock to the Columbia Gorge in summer and a resiliency hub in the case of I-84 closures or extended power outages.

We are so close to making this important community improvement happen - please help us make Mosier Center a reality for the safety of our residents and the vitality of our community.

Brian Stewart