

Submitter: Rebecca Wallis

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3870

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Wallis, and I am a resident of Yamhill County. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3870, which appropriates essential funding for public safety infrastructure in our rural communities—specifically the McMinnville Fire District and the Sheridan Fire District.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the challenges our local fire and EMS personnel face. McMinnville Fire District, though newly established, is responsible for covering an extensive and growing area of 98 square miles for fire response and 450 square miles for ambulance service. Their call volume continues to rise with our region's population growth and aging demographics. The proposed funding will allow for construction of a much-needed fire station in the northwest section of the district—an area currently served by a temporary facility that cannot house a fire engine and was never meant to be permanent.

Sheridan Fire District's need is even more urgent. They are facing an imminent funding crisis that threatens their ability to continue operations. With limited staffing, declining volunteer numbers, and critical budget shortfalls, Sheridan is at risk of closing its fire stations within months if HB 3870 does not pass. This would leave residents of Sheridan, Ballston, and Buell vulnerable and without adequate emergency protection.

This bill is not about luxury. It's about survival, safety, and sustainability. HB 3870 ensures both immediate relief and long-term planning for emergency services that every Oregonian depends on. Fire districts are not optional—they are essential.

I urge you to pass HB 3870 and stand with the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting ours.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Wallis