

March 28, 2025

Senator Daniel Bonham Representative Jeff Helfrich

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Salem, OR, 97301 Salem, Oregon 97301

Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov

[Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov)

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

As both as a business owner, a resident, and member of the community I am writing to request your crucial support to the City of Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center.

The primary purpose of the structure is to house a much needed Fire Station for our First responders in the community. Mosier as the heart of the Columbia River Gorge exists in an area where Wildfires are an annual threat to residents, businesses and commercial transportation interests like Union Pacific Railroad and Interstate I-84.

By providing the funds for the community building, you will have a direct positive impact on the safety and security of the town and surrounding areas. The community center will be an anchor point for qualified fire-fighting professionals to stage a base camp for the entire center Columbia Gorge area. It will also serve as immediate access point for any Interstate Police during emergency interstate closures due to natural or manmade causes including earthquakes, and inclement weather.

Our community has spent nearly a decade of tremendous effort on this project beginning with the great work of then Mosier Mayor Arlene Burns working to take the learning from the railroad fire which occurred literally in the middle of our town; to address the resiliency this center will provide. That threat from rail traffic is with us daily as is one of the unique risks created by the Columbia Gorge's high winds and ultra-dry conditions in summer and fall. The conditions we all witnessed in the catastrophic fires in Los Angeles recently are present to some degree ever year in our community.

We are very close to the finish line. We have obtained funds from the State, DOE and DEQ, and very compelling donations from community members. We have cost reduced the project to the essentials and a Federal USDA grant which would have gotten us over the line failed to pass.

Your support is crucial at this moment!

Please use your agency to make this funding available in support of the Mosier Community Center. We ask your support to help us create a safe and sustainable community the National Scenic Area of the Columbia Gorge.

Thank you for stepping up to serve as our representatives!

Sincerely,

Richard Fade

1710 State Rd.

Mosier, Or 97040

