

Submitter: Rob Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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Good evening, co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez and committee members; thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Rob Miller. I am an orchardist and small business owner in Mosier. I also sit on the Mosier Fire District Board. I am here on behalf of the City of Mosier and the Mosier Fire District – in support of their request for \$2.5 million to bridge the funding gap and allow Mosier to finally build The Mosier Center, a combined fire station, city hall, community safety center.

Last summer I witnessed a wall of flame heading toward my home and orchard and the entire city of Mosier. This was not the first time. Our part of the Gorge is increasingly subject to fires.

The requested funds will help reverse Mosier's aging infrastructure and inadequate public safety facilities. They would also have a huge multiplier effect – strengthening the mutual aid agreements we have with neighboring towns to help guarantee each other's safety and the economic vitality of the region. Mosier is small but occupies a strategic position among the neighboring communities and amid the rural/urban fire interface. The letters of support that we have submitted in relations to HB 3870 testify to this.

By providing these funds the state would give us the ability to take a huge step forward for fire safety & emergency medical care in the region for decades to come.

This funding is part of HB 3870. We have also requested it under Capital Construction disbursed through Business Oregon or some other vehicle, as the legislature may choose.

Since the oil train derailment and fire of 2016, Mosier's citizens have turned their fear

and anger into something constructive and preventative. We have successfully put together funding sources from the railroad settlement, the state, the USDA, and the people of Mosier who have opened their wallets to show their urgent support for this public safety project.

We have put that money to work and at last this project is now shovel ready.

This would be the last piece of funding in the puzzle. The State Legislature will be the final funder. If we do not receive these funds, we would lose some of our existing time-dependent funding.

Whatever funding vehicle you choose – I urge you to please include Mosier's request for a lasting community safety solution in the state budget.

Thank you.