



Jason M. Bizon
McMinnville School District #40 Director
Board Chair 2023-Current
800 NE Lafayette Ave
McMinnville Oregon 97128
April 5th, 2025

Chief Reed Godfrey
McMinnville Fire District
175 SE 1st ST
McMinnville Oregon 97128

Subject: Letter of support for HB 3870

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Jason Bizon and I am the current Board Chair of the McMinnville School Board of Directors. Our district has had a wonderful working partnership with our local fire district. Our relationship includes, but is not limited to, a fire service pathway for our students, fire cadet programing, emergency response protocol training and overall protection of our staff, students, buildings and properties. Chief Godfrey and I grew up in the very district we now have the pleasure to serve. I write you today to ask for your support of HB 3870. The allocation of these dollars will help fund the purchase of land and building for a new fire station serving our citizens in the NW part of McMinnville. This purchase would enhance the emergency response in one of the fastest growing areas of McMinnville. The school district has land assets in the area that could be used for a future high school and a future elementary school so the importance of having services in those areas is vitally important now and in the future.

Thank you for you consideration of this important endeavor for the safety and working relationship of both the McMinnville Fire District and the McMinnville School District. I urge you to support HB 3870 to continue to foster and prioritize the citizens and educational institutions of this town.

Jason M. Bizon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason M. Bizon' in a cursive style.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KIT JOHNSTON • MARY STARRETT • DAVID "BUBBA" KING

535 NE Fifth Street • McMinnville, OR 97128-4523
(503) 434-7501 • Fax (503) 434-7553
TTY (800) 735-2900 • www.yamhillcounty.gov

April 4, 2025

Representative Thuy Tran, Chair
House Committee on Emergency
Management, General Government,
and Veterans Oregon State
Legislature 900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tran and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong **support for House Bill 3870**, which would allocate **\$3 million to the McMinnville Fire District** for land acquisition, planning, and construction of a much-needed fire station in **Northwest McMinnville**.

The McMinnville Fire District plays a **critical role** in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents, businesses, and workforce. As McMinnville continues to grow, the demands on our emergency services have increased significantly. The Fire District currently operates out of just **one primary station to cover 98 square miles**, with **Station 15 on 3 Mile Lane** soon to provide additional support. However, current resources are stretched, and response times remain a **serious concern for businesses and homeowners** alike.

1. A new fire station in NW McMinnville would:
 - **Improve emergency response times**, reducing the risk of devastating fire losses and delayed medical assistance.
 - **Enhance operational efficiency** by replacing the inadequate rental house that currently houses an ambulance- only crew without proper facilities.
 - **Strengthen McMinnville's business environment** by helping to maintain manageable insurance rates for property owners.
 - **Support long-term growth and safety** by allowing for future expansion, including additional fire engines and volunteer firefighter support.

I recognize that **public safety is essential to economic vitality**. Reliable emergency services help attract and retain businesses, ensure worker safety, and protect the investments of local entrepreneurs. HB 3870 is a **critical step toward reinforcing our emergency response infrastructure** and safeguarding the future of our community.

I urge your **full support** for this important bill and appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Dave "Bubba" King
Yamhill County Commissioner
434 NE Evans St.
McMinnville, Oregon 97128
Phone: (503) 434-7501
Email: kingb@yamhillcounty.gov



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March 24, 2025

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

As the Chair of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express my strong support for Oregon House Bill 3870. This critical piece of legislation will provide vital funding to enhance public safety infrastructure across our state, including the McMinnville Fire District, which serves as an essential resource for our community.

Yamhill County faces unique challenges as a growing region in Oregon. Ensuring our public safety services are well-equipped and accessible is paramount. The allocation of \$3,000,000 to the McMinnville Fire District for land acquisition, planning, and construction of a new fire station will directly benefit our residents by improving emergency response times and increasing the capacity of our fire and rescue services. This investment will strengthen our community's resilience in the face of emergencies, from wildfires to medical crises.

House Bill 3870 represents a long-overdue commitment to building safer, more sustainable communities throughout Oregon. By allocating funds to fire districts, emergency communications, and other public safety infrastructure, this bill addresses a wide range of needs and will help create a safer environment for all Oregonians.

I strongly urge your support for House Bill 3870, as it will make a significant and lasting impact on public safety in Yamhill County and beyond. Thank you for considering this important legislation. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Kit Johnston

Chair

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners



MCMINNVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

3850 SE Three Mile Ln, McMinnville, OR 97128 503-435-5800

Public Testimony for House Bill 3870

Adam D. Garvin

Fire Board President, McMinnville Fire District

Former McMinnville City Councilor & Council President

Former McMinnville Volunteer Firefighter

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of House Bill 3870.

My name is Adam Garvin, and I currently serve as Fire Board President for the McMinnville Fire District. I'm also a former McMinnville City Councilor, where I served for eight years, including two and a half years as Council President. During that time, I spent six and a half years working on the formation and consolidation of our newly established fire district, a major step forward for public safety in our region. I also began my public safety journey as a volunteer firefighter for McMinnville after graduating high school. HB3870 supports the construction of a critical new fire station in northwest McMinnville, an area seeing rapid growth and increased emergency service demands. The current station, a converted 1962 residential home, was always intended as a short-term solution. Over a decade later, it's still in use and no longer meets the needs of the district or the residents we serve.

The McMinnville Fire District covers 98 square miles, with an additional 450 square miles of Ambulance Service Area (ASA). As a newly formed district, we're committed to building smart, resilient infrastructure from the ground up, and this bill represents a force multiplier for state dollars. Our district is committed to matching 20% of the requested funding to make this project happen. Take Medic 12 as a real-world example. It's the busiest medic unit in the system, operating out of the temporary EMS station known as Station 12 on Baker Creek Road. Despite its high call volume, it faces the longest response times, tasked with covering not only McMinnville but also Yamhill, Carlton, and Lafayette. Winter conditions worsen delays, from frozen windshields to the need for special heaters to keep life-saving medications at safe temperatures. The station lacks the capacity for a second ambulance, has no fire engine, and cannot house critical apparatus like a brush rig or water tender, which are essential for effective rural and wildland response. Additionally, the facility doesn't meet modern seismic safety standards, putting continuity of operations at risk during a major disaster. A new station built to today's codes would ensure uninterrupted 24-hour operations, even in the face of significant natural events.

Our district relies heavily on volunteer firefighters, many of whom live in the northern part of town. A properly equipped station in that area would enable a volunteer engine company, significantly cutting down response times and eliminating the need to cross congested areas of McMinnville to reach calls. This project also allows us to reinstate the student sleeper program, a key promise made when the fire district was formed. It's a proven pipeline for developing the next generation of trained firefighters and EMTs, and it provides critical overnight staffing support. This station is an investment in preparedness, equity in response times, and regional safety. It strengthens mutual aid capacity for partners to the north and west while reducing emergency response times for underserved rural areas and fast-growing parts of McMinnville. Most importantly, it ensures we're ready for both today's emergencies and tomorrow's growth.

House Bill 3870 enables a collaborative, cost-effective solution to meet the evolving emergency service needs of McMinnville and our regional partners. It brings state investment to the table while honoring local commitment, and it ensures our first responders have the tools and infrastructure needed to protect lives. As Fire Board President, as a former City Council President, and as someone who's personally answered the call as a firefighter, I respectfully urge your support for HB3870.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to public safety,
Adam D. Garvin Board President, McMinnville Fire District



Office of Mayor Kim Morris

March 24, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management,
General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support HB 3870

Dear Chair Tran and Members of the Committee,

I am in support of House Bill 3870, and I am grateful to see McMinnville Fire District is a potential recipient; they are very deserving of the opportunity.

The transition from a city fire department to a Fire District has been a significant success for the city, the district, and its residents. The district has worked so hard to get their feet on the ground. Once they got their footing, they were off doing everything they could to better the department and improve how they serve others. They have shown they can be fiscally responsible, which is so important to all agencies. They have been smart & logical in setting goals that serve to improve their services and response times. Their approach balances short-term achievements with long-term objectives, ensuring continuous progress without unnecessary spending of taxpayer funds.

The McMinnville Fire District covers almost 100 square miles, and additional locations are necessary to better serve its residents. I believe these funds would help them secure a location, which would be of such value to our community. When a citizen needs a first responder, they want them to arrive as quickly as possible to help them or a loved one. Having locations that reduce response times is beneficial and necessary as growth and boundaries expand.

Please support HB 3870 and the McMinnville Fire District.

We're all here to serve today, for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Morris".

Kim Morris
Mayor, City of McMinnville
C: 971.901.2084

March 24, 2025

Representative Thuy Tran, Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management,
General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Chair Tran and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce**, I am writing to express our strong **support for House Bill 3870**, which would allocate **\$3 million to the McMinnville Fire District** for land acquisition, planning, and construction of a much-needed fire station in **Northwest McMinnville**.

The McMinnville Fire District plays a **critical role** in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents, businesses, and workforce. As McMinnville continues to grow, the demands on our emergency services have increased significantly. The Fire District currently operates out of just **one primary station to cover 98 square miles**, with **Station 15 on 3 Mile Lane** soon to provide additional support. However, current resources are stretched, and response times remain a **serious concern for businesses and homeowners** alike.

A **new fire station in NW McMinnville** would:

- **Improve emergency response times**, reducing the risk of devastating fire losses and delayed medical assistance.
- **Enhance operational efficiency** by replacing the inadequate rental house that currently houses an ambulance-only crew without proper facilities.
- **Strengthen McMinnville's business environment** by helping to maintain manageable insurance rates for property owners.
- **Support long-term growth and safety** by allowing for future expansion, including additional fire engines and volunteer firefighter support.

Our Chamber represents the business community of McMinnville, and we recognize that **public safety is essential to economic vitality**. Reliable emergency services help attract and retain businesses, ensure worker safety, and protect the investments of local entrepreneurs. HB 3870 is a **critical step toward reinforcing our emergency response infrastructure** and safeguarding the future of our community.

We urge your **full support** for this important bill and appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

John Olson
President/CEO
McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce
president@mcminnville.org | (503) 472-6196 | mcminnville.org



CITIZENS BANK
Good Business. Good Friends.

March 21, 2025,

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 3870

I am writing to request your support the passage of House Bill 3870, for the McMinnville Fire District. In an election, almost 2 years ago, our community strongly supported formation of the McMinnville Fire District, combining the McMinnville Rural Fire District with the McMinnville Fire Department. We, as a community, voted for a \$2 per thousand increase of our property taxes to reduce the response time for emergencies and to save lives. To fully accomplish the reduction in response time, our community desperately needs another fire station to cover the 98 square miles of the district. The \$3 million earmarked in this bill would allow the fire district to strategically locate another fire station in NW McMinnville. This will have a significant impact on rural homeowners' ability to obtain insurance. The new station is needed for city, rural medical and fire emergencies, including wildland fires.

Reed Godfrey, the Fire Chief, and his department have repeatedly demonstrated the fiscal responsibility in obtaining the maximum benefit from any money received. We are convinced the money allocated would be frugally spent to meet our current needs. We would appreciate your vote in favor of HB 3870.

Thank you,

Jon Johnson
 Vice President and Branch Manager
 Citizens Bank
 455 NE Baker Street
 McMinnville, OR 97128
jjohnson@citizensbank.com
 503-474-9441

ALBANY BRANCH (EAST)
 (541) 967-1992

ALBANY BRANCH (WEST)
 (541) 812-6178

CORVALLIS MAIN BRANCH
 CORVALLIS CIRCLE BRANCH
 (541) 752-5161

DALLAS BRANCH
 (503) 623-3119

HARRISBURG BRANCH
 (541) 995-4699

JUNCTION CITY BRANCH
 (541) 998-8734

LEBANON BRANCH
 (541) 258-5503

McMINNVILLE BRANCH
 (503) 474-9441

OREGON CITY BRANCH
 (503) 518-8808

PHILOMATH BRANCH
 (541) 929-3228

SALEM BRANCH
 (503) 363-0698

SILVERTON BRANCH
 (503) 874-8808

SPRINGFIELD BRANCH
 (541) 746-5240

TUALATIN BRANCH
 (971) 252-6502

 CUSTOMER SUPPORT
 1-800-577-1778
 PO BOX 30
 CORVALLIS, OR 97339-0030



PO Box 239 | McMinnville, OR 97128
888.317.8333 | FirstFedWeb.com



April 15, 2025

Sent Via Electronic Delivery: reed.godfrey@mcminnvillefiredistrict.gov

Re: Letter of support for House Bill 3870

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of our financial institution based in Yamhill County, Oregon which has diligently served small rural communities for over 100 years. I appreciate your tireless efforts in advocating for policies to uplift our communities and ensure safety and well-being for all citizens.

It is in this spirit that I draw your attention to House Bill 3870, which appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Business Development Department for distribution to local governments and other agencies for purposes related to public safety. Passing House Bill 3870 is vital for McMinnville, Sheridan and regional safety ensuring first responders have the necessary tools to protect the community by providing a fast and effective response time to fire and medical emergencies.

Thank you for considering our request and your steadfast service to our state. I am more than willing to provide further information or engage in discussions regarding the profound impact that House Bill 3870 could have on our communities.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Schlotfeldt".

Jim Schlotfeldt
President and CEO
First Federal



MCMINNVILLE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 3099

PO Box 655 • McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Phone: (503)437-0166

Email: President3099@gmail.com

March 21, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the McMinnville Professional Firefighters Local 3099, we are writing to urge your support for House Bill 3870, a critical piece of legislation that will enhance public safety and improve working conditions for firefighters in our growing community. This bill allocates essential funding to establish a third fire station in an area that was slated for a new station back in 2009. Unfortunately, the funding for adding the additional fire station has never been available. The addition of this station will be a much-needed step that will strengthen our ability to serve and protect our residents effectively.

The addition of a third station addresses several pressing needs. First, it allows us to strategically distribute Fire and EMS assets across the district, significantly reducing response times to emergencies. In our line of work, every second counts—faster response times save lives, protect property, and provide peace of mind to the families we serve. Second, this expansion will alleviate the strain on our existing stations, which are increasingly stretched thin as our community grows. Finally, the new facility will provide improved accommodations for our firefighters, as well as space for community engagement and shelter in times of disaster, fostering a stronger connection between our members and the public we swear to protect.

Our firefighters put their lives on the line every day to ensure the safety of our constituents. HB3870 represents an investment not only in our ability to do our jobs effectively but also in the long-term resilience of our community. The funding this bill provides is a proactive measure to meet the demands of a growing population and to uphold the high standard of emergency services that our residents deserve.

We respectfully request your support for HB3870. By voting in favor of this bill, you will demonstrate a commitment to public safety, the well-being of our firefighters, and the strength of our community as a whole. We would be happy to discuss this matter further or provide additional information about the impact this legislation will have on our district. Please feel free to contact us any time.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to the constituents of the McMinnville Fire District.

Sincerely,

B. Todd Godfrey

President

McMinnville Professional Firefighters

To whom it may concern:

As a volunteer firefighter with 35 years of service, I have dedicated my life to protecting and serving my community. I have witnessed firsthand the increasing demands placed on our fire district, the growing challenges we face, and the urgent need for better resources to ensure public safety. That is why I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3870, which would allocate \$3,000,000 to the McMinnville Fire District for land acquisition, planning, and construction of a new fire station.

The McMinnville Fire District serves a vast area, responding to both fire and emergency medical calls across 98 square miles and providing ambulance services to an even larger 450-square-mile region. Over the past three decades, I have seen how the demands on our department have increased due to population growth, call volume, and the need for advanced emergency response capabilities. Unfortunately, our current facilities are struggling to keep up with these demands.

I have personally experienced the challenges of operating out of aging infrastructure that was not designed to handle today's emergency response needs. Limited space, outdated equipment storage, and response inefficiencies all impact our ability to serve the community effectively. A new fire station would allow us to reduce response times, improve firefighter safety, and enhance service to the people who depend on us in their most critical moments.

Firefighters, whether career or volunteer, take great pride in their ability to respond quickly and effectively. We willingly put our lives

on the line to protect our neighbors, but we need the proper tools and facilities to do our job safely and efficiently. HB 3870 is not just an investment in infrastructure—it is an investment in the safety of McMinnville and the surrounding communities.

I urge you to support HB 3870 and ensure that the McMinnville Fire District receives the funding necessary to build a fire station that meets the needs of today and the future. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to public safety.

Respectfully,

Pete Goodman, Capt
McMinnville Volunteer Firefighters Assc.
President