

Testimony to Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction - Mosier Center

Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Witt Anderson, Mayor of Mosier.

On behalf of the City of Mosier and the Mosier Fire District I ask for the legislature's support of \$2.5m to close our funding gap and allow Mosier to finally construct the Mosier Center, a combined fire station, city hall, and community safety center.

Our existing facilities are woefully antiquated and inadequate to meet contemporary needs. We have suffered numerous emergencies in recent years including the oil train derailment in 2016 and three wildland-urban interface fires in the past 5 years. In addition to providing critical fire and emergency response capability, the facility will serve as community meeting and training room, office space, a food pantry and emergency shelter.

On the heels of recent emergencies, our community has rallied to make a positive contribution to future generations in our area. We have successfully raised 75 percent of required funding through the railroad settlement, state and federal sources, grants, loans, local donations and City and Fire budgeted funds. Of these funds over \$300,000 were donated by many local community members and more than 45 letters of support were submitted to this committee and to the House Committee on Emergency Management in support of HB3870.

We have completed final design and have construction permits. In short, we are shovel ready. This request would be the last piece of the funding puzzle. And respectfully, I point out that absent these funds, we will lose some of our existing time-dependent funding.

Now is the time to get this project done and I urge you to please include Mosier's request for a lasting community safety solution in the state budget.

Thank you.