

Submitter: Karl Walter
On Behalf Of: Row River Fire Response
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Honorable members of the committee, I am here today as a homeowner in the Row River Rural Fire District. As a homeowner, I have a direct stake in ensuring the safety and security of our community, and we are facing an increasingly critical situation. While our commitment is unwavering, and we have successfully recruited over 20 volunteer firefighters and acquired essential firefighting apparatus, we lack adequate fire station facilities.

We are a small community spread out over a fairly large area, making fire protection particularly challenging. Our current infrastructure is insufficient to properly house our equipment, provide essential training space, and ensure the rapid deployment necessary to protect our community. As you know, Oregon's rural areas are experiencing increasingly severe fire seasons, placing our homes, livelihoods, and natural resources at heightened risk.

Despite these limitations, our over 20 dedicated volunteers continue to answer the call. We urge you to support this vital funding and help us build the essential infrastructure our rural fire department needs to effectively protect our community and our homes.