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Todd Riley  
Fire Chief

May 7, 2025

To: Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

From: Bend Fire & Rescue

**Re: House Bill 2858 and House Bill 3084**

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Subcommittee Members,

Every day, emergency managers, in coordination with first responders, work to plan, train, and prepare for events that will have significant impacts on our state. The responsibility to plan and develop capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover falls on the shoulders of a relatively small group of local officials in Emergency Management, as well as our state agency partners across several agencies and the Governor's Office. Bend Fire & Rescue is thankful for the acknowledgment of this important work made by the Oregon Legislature in 2022 through their \$9.5M investment in the Central Oregon Ready, Responsive, Resilient, "CORE3", facility.

Bend Fire & Rescue strongly supports House Bill 2858 and House Bill 3084 which both invest in the State of Oregon's preparation for emergencies through the development of CORE3, a dedicated Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and multidisciplinary emergency services training center. The State of Oregon is facing growing threats from natural disasters such as wildfire, flooding, and pandemics, as well as the anticipated Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Redmond, Oregon will play a significant role in rescue and recovery operations for major statewide disasters, yet the region lacks a dedicated multi-agency coordination center for emergency operations or adequate training facilities for large scale emergency incidents. Our agency is part of a broad coalition of local, regional, state and federal agencies that have come together to collaborate and develop the CORE3" facility in Deschutes County.

Construction of site infrastructure will start this summer, positioning CORE3 to be shovel ready by early 2026. House Bill 2858 and House Bill 3084 will leverage the state's initial investment of \$9.5M, as well as nearly \$14M in local contributions and \$1.75M from federal sources and will make construction of this critical statewide and regional facility possible. Constructing the ECC will provide immediate opportunities for wildfire response, emergency responder training, cross agency collaboration and preparation, and a stable center that will survive any seismic event for coordination of statewide response and recovery.

Bend Fire & Rescue urges you to support HB 2858 and HB 3084 to invest in the State of Oregon's preparation for emergencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TRiley', is positioned above the printed name.

Todd Riley  
Fire Chief  
Bend Fire & Rescue