



Good afternoon Co-Chairs. For the record, my name is Kathleen Istudor. I belong to the Row River Fire Response, a 501c3 non-profit. I am representing the rural community of Dorena located in South Lane County, and the Row River Rural Fire Protection District – recently formed in May 2024.

The request is for \$1.1 million for the construction of our Fire Station.

Our valley is a gateway to the Umpqua National Forest, Home of the Dorena Watershed that serves the City of Cottage Grove and beyond. We receive hundreds of thousands annual visitors to our bike path, rivers, and forests. And until last year, we did not have a fire district.

In 2022, our organization began when one man, Scott Byler, watched helplessly as his neighbor's house burned down. Within months 100s of neighbors join him, later to petition for a fire district.

Chief Wooten of South Lane County Fire and Rescue stepped in and used the same legislative act that you voted in, that partners fire organizations with non-profits – creating LIFEFLIGHT. A partnership that is patterned successfully across the United States.

South Lane County Fire and Rescue, and under Chief Wooten's mentorship, trained 20 of our community volunteers to become Firefighters and 3 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Our Community grew as Fire Districts across Oregon join in supporting us with donations of trucks, equipment and advice. When our volunteers required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Our community was extended by the blessing of local Tribes and Non-Profits who helped fund these needs.

We ask for you to join this amazing community with your participation in the funding for our Fire Station. We hope that your efforts, along with the many who have joined us, forms a template that can develop rural fire districts across this great state.