

May 9, 2025

To the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Support for the Santiam Canyon Radio Project Funding Request

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee,

I am writing to respectfully request your support for an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the *Santiam Canyon Radio Project*, a critical multijurisdictional initiative aimed at replacing an aging and inadequate radio communication system with a modern, reliable, and interoperable network.

This upgrade is essential to ensuring the safety and effectiveness of our region's firefighters and EMS responders. The current system poses increasing challenges to emergency response coordination, particularly in the rugged terrain of south east Silverton, Cascade foothills and the Santiam Canyon area. Modernizing this infrastructure will enhance real-time communication, improve responder safety, and strengthen mutual aid operations across jurisdictions.

This project will directly benefit the following fire agencies:

Aumsville, Gates, Idanha-Detroit, Jefferson, Lyons, Mill City, Silverton, Stayton, Sublimity, and Turner.

Additionally, EMS agency users—including Santiam Ambulance and Woodburn Ambulance—as well as fire-based EMS operations in Turner, Jefferson, and Lyons will see substantial improvements in communication and service delivery.

We urge your support of this investment, which is critical to public safety and regional resilience.

Sincerely,
Bill Miles
Fire Chief
Silverton Fire District