

Submitter: Scott Byler
On Behalf Of: Scott Byler
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Chair and Members of the Committee, February 12, 2026

My name is Scott Byler, and I live in Disston in the upper Row River Valley. I am submitting this testimony in support of the Disston Fire Station Capital Request under SB5701.

Disston is the most remote part of our fire district. We are located at the upper end of the valley, adjacent to the Umpqua National Forest, with a single route in and out. Despite the danger to the whole valley below and downwind of us, emergency response times to Disston are typically up to one-half hour. A Fire Station in Disston, itself, will cut this time down to just minutes.

We voted to tax ourselves to create our fire district and we were successful. I voted to tax myself several thousand dollars every year, but we still fall short in funding the planned Disston Station. Since we began our effort, this station has been included as a crucial requirement to protect our poor and elderly; but, in a community where about one-half of our residents are in poverty, we may have reached our limit in funding the needed investment in real property. Your vote for a permanent station in Disston will place equipment and trained responders where they are most needed. It will shorten response times in the upper valley and strengthen protection not only for Disston residents but also for visitors traveling to and from the National Forest and for residents living further down the valley.

In support of our State's efforts towards creating truly resilient communities, I respectfully ask you to support the Disston Fire Station capital request under SB5701.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Scott Byler, Disston resident.