

Submitter: Cynthia Igou
On Behalf Of: Row River Valley Community
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Igou, and my grandparent came to the Row River Valley in the early 1940s. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have seen firsthand both the strength and the vulnerability of our rural community.

Our area has a single route in and out, sits in a high wildfire risk corridor, and includes the watershed that ultimately serves the greater Cottage Grove area. We have experienced fires, smoke events, and the growing pressures that rural districts across Oregon now face.

In May 2024, residents voted to tax themselves and form a volunteer fire district. That vote reflected both need and responsibility. The community acted first.

The Disston Station represents stability. It would provide a secure, permanent facility for emergency response in the Row River Valley. The Row River Valley is many miles long so having this facility will be vital in an emergency.

For a rural district with limited financial capacity, this capital investment from the state would provide lasting infrastructure that local taxpayers alone cannot realistically fund in the near term.

I am especially aware of the financial realities facing our rural community. We work carefully with limited resources. The Disston Station is not an expansion of services but a foundational public safety facility that strengthens wildfire response, protects our watershed, and supports the volunteers who serve our community.

I respectfully ask for your support of the Disston Fire Station capital request under SB 5701. Help our community stay safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dorena Resident Cindy Igou