

Greetings Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and members of the Joint Sub-Committee on Capital Construction. **I write in support of including funding for the Disston Station in SB 5701.**

I am a staunch advocate for ensuring rural unincorporated areas have the means to combat wildfire. The Row River valley is a narrow highly vegetated valley. A wildfire in the southern region, with a northly wind, would quickly devastate the entire valley and the numerous unincorporated communities with in.

Including funding for the Disston Station at the southern end of the valley is a prudent decision which minimizes the potential destruction of hundreds of homes, and the life altering disruption to the lives of people, their families, and communities. As the recovery experience from 2020 Labor Fires has shown, recovery takes years and is significantly more costly than funding practical, affordable, preventative measures – which this is.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony supporting funding for the Disston Station in SB 5701.

Respectfully,

Charlie Conrad

Former State Representative – HD12