



February 12, 2026

Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR, 97301

Co-Chair Representative Rod Nosse
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Nosse,

On behalf of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, I am writing to express our strong support for Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$4.5 million for the Mosier Center, a critical public safety facility and economic hub for our community.

The Mosier Center is an investment in both the safety and long-term economic resilience of Mosier and the entire Columbia River Gorge. The Gorge region, including Mosier, is no stranger to the devastating costs of wildfires. Over the past several years, we have witnessed first-hand the severe impacts that wildfires can have on local communities, including the destruction of property, loss of critical infrastructure, and the disruption of local businesses. In June 2025, the Rowena fire devastated over one hundred homes and structures as high winds swept through the National Scenic Area near Mosier. It is more important than ever to invest in improved fire safety infrastructure.

The proposed Mosier Center will serve as a critical resource for enhancing fire preparedness, response capabilities, and community resilience. This facility will be utilized in the event of a fire emergency, serving as a refuge and resource center for affected residents.

The dual purpose of the community center, first as shelter and basic needs during emergencies, also serves as a resource for both tourists and local businesses. By offering a dedicated space for visitors and public meeting facilities, Mosier Center will serve as a central hub for those looking to explore the area and to learn about the rich history of Mosier. It will help bridge the gap between the influx of visitors and the small businesses that depend on their patronage.

We fully support the request for this important project and encourage you to prioritize its funding. The Mosier Center, with its fire station, will be an invaluable asset, strengthening both the safety and economic vitality of the Columbia Gorge region. Mosier has already raised a significant amount of matching funds from local community members, the City and Fire District. The \$4.5 million will help close the funding gap and make this critical infrastructure a real asset to the Gorge, with benefits far beyond the City of Mosier. We urge you to fund this modest request in 2026 before the matching funds expire.

Sincerely,

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Executive Director