

EAST LINCOLN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

To: Co-Chairs Senator Fred Girod, Representative Paul Holvey, Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Sub-Committee on Capital Construction.

The EAST LINCOLN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE respectfully submits the following written testimony in relation to Senate Bill 5534.

A Fire Hall/ Emergency Operations Center in Eddyville, Oregon, Asking 4 Million Dollars

Major emergency benefit:

As proven with the 2020 wildfires local resources are the first line of defense in any emergency. This building and equipment stored in the building would allow for the immediate use of and equipment necessary as well as a staging point for incoming resources, In the case of the Cascadia earthquake scenario this station would provide for a FOB for any and all assistance for the county as well as acting as a command post for all emergency providers responding to the incident. The station would have communication capability even if we are reduced to HAM radios. This station would have phone, conventional radio, and ham radio capability. East Lincoln county fire rescue has worked at building a cache of emergency provisions such as water treatment and food supplies for that area that are currently housed in the Toledo Fire station. Both would be necessary in the Cascadia earthquake scenario. After dealing with the 2020 fires I can personally say that this fire station would become a primary point of service in any major emergency such as wildland fires, flooding and other weather events, including Cascadia. The building we are currently using is at the old mill site and is very insufficient for these needs.

Daily benefit:

The hwy 20 corridor between Toledo and the Lincoln county line is the only Highway that does not have protection of sorts. The district currently meets all response needs out of the Toledo Fire station. Historically we have had many very serious crashes on hwy 20 in that gap mentioned above resulting in dozens of deaths and scores of serious injuries. Without intervention many more would have died trapped in their vehicles. There is no emergency provision in all other capacities in that area of the county. The station allows for the betterment of service provision by positioning equipment in that gap. The station as designed would allow partnership with OSU for resident or student sleepers for staffing. The station in the Eddyville area reduces insurance classification. The offset between the cost of the building and the insurance reduction leans favorably toward the property owner.

This project is shovel ready and would serve the over 18,000 regular users of the highway and surrounding areas.

Jeff Doyle ELCFR Board member