

March 6, 2024

To the Honorable Co-Chairs and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction:

Dear Co-Chair Senator Girod, Co-Chair Representative Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to you today to express our strong support for Senate Bill 5701, particularly with the inclusion of the -2 amendments. This critical piece of legislation represents a significant opportunity to bolster the safety and efficiency of our emergency services in Gresham and its surrounding areas.

Specifically, the proposed allocation of \$500,000 to the City of Gresham Fire Department for the construction of a new multi-discipline training structure at Gresham Fire and Emergency Services Station 74 is of paramount importance. As you are aware, the City of Gresham spans an extensive area of 60 square miles and serves a population of over 153,000 residents, including the communities of Gresham, Fairview, Wood Village, Troutdale, and the unincorporated Multnomah County Fire District 10. The current training tower, now in dire need of replacement, is a critical component of our first responders' education and preparedness regimen. By securing the necessary funding for a new multi-discipline training structure, we will ensure that our firefighters are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to handle emergencies effectively, thereby safeguarding our community and the vulnerable populations we serve.

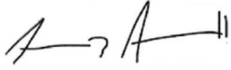
Investing in the infrastructure that supports our first responders is not just a matter of civic responsibility; it is an investment in the safety and well-being of every individual who calls our region home. The proposed funding will enable the City of Gresham Fire Department to build a new multi-discipline training structure, reflecting our collective commitment to excellence in public safety and emergency services. The \$500,000 from the state will be matched with \$500,000 from the city of Gresham to construct this new structure, to support our first responders.

We urge the Joint Committee On Ways and Means to recognize the critical importance of this funding initiative and to support Senate Bill 5701 with the -2 amendments. Your endorsement of this bill will send a clear message about our state's dedication to ensuring the highest standards of safety and emergency preparedness for all its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to the welfare of our communities. We look forward to your positive response and are hopeful for the swift passage of this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

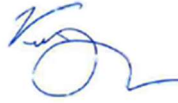
Gresham City Council



Mayor Travis Stovall



Council President Sue Piazza



Councilor Vince Jones-Dixon



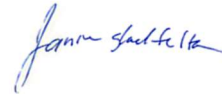
Councilor Dina DiNucci



Councilor Jerry Hinton



Councilor Eddy Morales



Councilor Janine Gladfelter