

Testimony to Ways & Means Committee 3/22/25. - Mosier Center

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Witt Anderson, Mayor of Mosier.

Together with the Mosier Fire District, the City seeks your support for final capital construction funding for our Mosier Center project.

This joint fire station and community center has been underway with fundraising and design since the 2016 UPRR oil train derailment — a near disaster for our community. In the last 5 years we have experienced 3 major wildland urban interface fires, with the Microwave tower fire last year once again causing significant damage and economic loss.

To be resilient and contend with emergencies in the future, we need facilities that meet contemporary standards.

We are shovel ready now with permits and contractor in place. Our \$2.5m request would allow us to finally construct the project. To date we have raised 75 percent of required funding through grants, loans, local donations, and city and fire funds. Prior funds provided by the legislature have allowed us to progress to this point.

The Mosier Center is included in HB 3870, sponsored by Rep Gomberg and others, which would fund emergency and safety initiatives and facilities throughout the state. We support HB 3870 and ask you to do the same.

I emphasize that this request would allow us to bring the project to fruition with benefits accruing to north central Oregon for decades to come.

We thank you for your support.