



March 25, 2025

Senator Daniel Bonham
900 Court St NE, S-323
Salem, OR, 97301
Sen.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov

Representative Jeff Helfrich
900 Court St. NE, H-371,
Salem, Oregon 97301
Rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

On behalf of Main Street Mosier, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Mosier's Capital Construction request of \$2.5 million for the Mosier Center, a critical public safety facility and economic hub for our community.

Main Street Mosier is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit with a Board of Directors comprised of residents, and business owners. Our Mission is "*To improve the quality of life in Mosier through community development, sustainable businesses, and historical preservation.*" We are an Affiliated Member of Oregon Main Street, under Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and have adopted the America Main Street model for downtown revitalization. Last year our organization contributed over 1,800 volunteer hours toward the betterment of Mosier through events, support of local businesses with networking/training opportunities and downtown beautification work.

In recent years, wildfire threats and evacuations have significantly impacted our downtown businesses. In the past three years, Mosier and the Mosier Valley were the epicenter of three wildfires. During these wildfire events, valuable time was lost getting specialized equipment from neighboring towns to the burning areas. Mosier's fire district buildings are antiquated and lack adequate space to house necessary specialized wildfire equipment such as larger fire trucks and water tenders. During recent wildfire events, command centers and emergency shelters had to be located miles away from Mosier as there are no adequate facilities in town. Our downtown businesses as well as our wineries and fruit orchards suffered significant economic losses because of these events. There is no bigger economic risk to our community than wildfires.

We fully support the funding request for this important project and encourage you to prioritize its consideration. The Mosier Center Joint Use Facility will be an invaluable asset, strengthening both the safety and economic vitality of the Columbia Gorge region.

Sincerely,

Robert Cushman
Board President
Main Street Mosier