

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, OR 97301
rep.JeffHelfrich@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Senator Bonham and Representative Helfrich,

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

I moved to Mosier in August 2020 primarily because my son and his family purchased land here in Mosier and have built a home here. I am an active volunteer in the community, assisting with the Mosier Community School backpack program, wherein food is distributed to school children whose families are food insecure. This program is funded by our school community. Additionally, I have assisted with school grounds work parties for upkeep and improvement of the school grounds and I substitute teach at the school as the need arises. My family is also active in the school community, as well as other community activities. We are invested in Mosier and, along with our neighbors, are striving to ensure Mosier thrives as she grows.

Since our move here, we have seen the severe impact of fire on our community including poor air quality (which required us to remain indoors) and extended power outages requiring us to boil water to ensure safety. Our local businesses have suffered severe economic losses, for example, the Microwave fire of July 2024 closed down the Mosier Twin Tunnels trail which shut down bicycle traffic to our community, a major contributor to our tourism industry. And our fruit growers' crops are affected by smoke from the wildfires.

With several fire districts sending help for our 2024 fire, it became abundantly clear that our current fire facilities are completely inadequate. There is literally no room for fire crews to meet and receive briefings. The building itself is too small to house the modern fire equipment necessary to protect our growing community (which has grown tremendously even since my move here). With the construction of Mosier Center, our fire department will have an adequate, centralized facility to house equipment, and a command center necessary to provide timely response to emergencies.

Please help us to make Mosier Center a reality for the safety of our residents and the success of our local businesses and community.

Sincerely,

Lynn Smith, PhD
lgerowsmith@gmail.com

