

March 27, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tran and members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for HB 3870, which would allocate \$10 million in state funding for the replacement of Gresham Fire Department’s Station 74.

Station 74 is home to Gresham’s Fire Training Center and responds to roughly 5,000 calls per year in Gresham’s most diverse neighborhoods, from industrial areas that include Microchip and Boeing, to economically challenged neighborhoods like Rockwood and Wilkes East.

Evaluated in 2019 and again in 2022, all of Gresham’s fire stations were recommended for replacement, but Fire Station 74 was found to be the highest priority. Constructed in 1966, the unreinforced concrete block structure does not meet any current seismic standards, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, or building codes for a modern fire station. This includes fire sprinklers, egress, cancer prevention, and ADA requirements.

What’s more, the station’s high calls for service necessitated adding additional firefighters to the station, but those firefighters are now bunking in a converted storage room in the basement of the station that is not seismically sound.

As our community and calls for service continue to grow, Gresham’s Strategic Plan and the recommendations from an outside consultant highlight the need to add an additional aerial ladder truck to this station, as it responds first to the most significant structure fires in the city. Yet Station 74 has neither the apparatus bay space nor the crew accommodations for another large response apparatus.

What’s more, this station’s strategic location means it responds to calls for service in the cities of Portland, Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village, as well as along Interstate 84 and in the Columbia River Gorge when needed.

This station is a vital asset to Gresham and the greater region. All this makes it imperative that the state assist in funding a new Station 74.

We encourage you to support HB 3870 and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mayor Travis Stovall



Council President Jerry Hinton



Councilor Kayla Brown



Councilor Cathy Keathley



Councilor Sue Piazza



Councilor Eddy Morales



Councilor Janine Gladfelter