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April 6, 2025

Joint Ways and Means Committee

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for Funding the Core-3 Emergency Coordination and Training Facility in Redmond, Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Jefferson County Fire & EMS to express strong support for the development of the **Core-3 Facility** in Redmond, Oregon. This facility will serve a dual and critical purpose for the entire state as both a **Regional Emergency Coordinating Center (ECC)** and a **Public Safety Training Center** for fire and law enforcement agencies throughout Central and Eastern Oregon.

As an **Emergency Coordinating Center**, Core-3 will provide a central location for unified command during major incidents, improving coordination, communication, and response efficiency. It will house all essential functions needed to manage natural and manmade disasters, including operations, planning, logistics, and support. The presence of this facility will significantly enhance Oregon's ability to respond to emergencies statewide.

In its role as a **Regional Training Center**, Core-3 addresses a long-standing gap in access to high-quality, specialized training infrastructure for rural and smaller departments. Constructing and maintaining individual fire training towers, EVOC driving courses, and live-burn structures is cost-prohibitive for many agencies. A shared facility will prevent unnecessary duplication, reduce costs, and create equitable access to state-of-the-art training.

The **location in Central Oregon** is also strategic. The region's dry climate supports more days of outdoor training than other parts of the state, and the centralized geography offers easier access for agencies east of the Cascades, many of which currently must drive a full day to reach training in the valley.

We respectfully urge the Joint Ways and Means Committee to support funding for the Core-3 project. This facility will not only strengthen emergency response and training capabilities but also represent a sound investment in public safety and interagency readiness across Oregon.

Thank you for your attention and continued dedication to supporting Oregon's emergency services.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Blake

Fire Chief

Jefferson County Fire & EMS

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