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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2025 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request funding for Rogue Siskiyou Wildfire Training Center Construction, Gold Beach, Oregon, in the amount of \$2,000,000 within the Committee's Community Project Funding Effort.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Training Facility located at 35002 Tam's Road, Gold Beach, OR 97444. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

Community Project funds will be used to purchase and set-up a Live Fire Burn Tower as part of the bigger effort to build a Wildfire Training Center in rural Gold Beach, Oregon.

The Burn Tower funded by this award is an essential prop for training of Level 1 wildland firefighters and provides live fire simulations involving searing heat, multiple burn areas, smoke-manage areas, and specialized platforms, rigging, and rappel anchors. It will introduce firefighters to complex aspects of structural firefighting, including uphill and downhill firefighting, fire dynamics, fire behavior, and patient-search techniques. The Live Fire Burn Tower is an essential part of the wildland firefighter training program. The Wildfire Training Center project as a whole is scalable, so the Burn Tower will still get sufficient use if the broader facility is not fully funded in the near term.

Providing a state-of-the-art Wildfire Training Center, fully equipped with specialized training props and experienced qualified instructors is the best way to ensure wildfire fighters, smoke jumpers, and rescue crews are prepared for wildfire emergencies and catastrophic conditions that threaten communities and natural resources during the Oregon fire season. Oregon Wildfire Incident Commanders report major wildfires are often 50% understaffed, causing an average fire to explode into a massive wildfire in as quickly as a few hours. Building a non-profit firefighter training center will develop more qualified crews to fight increasingly devastating wildfires, which is a benefit to all Oregonians and people across the West.

Additionally, the Wildfire Training Center will provide economic diversity and development to the small rural community of Gold Beach. These public benefits are a worthy use of taxpayer funds. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val T. Hoyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

Val T. Hoyle
Member of Congress