

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
PHONE (208) 478-3700
FAX # (208) 237-0797



FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Mike Simpson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Funding Request for Fort Hall Fire District Fire Station

Dear Representative Simpson,

On behalf of the Fort Hall Business Council, the governing body of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, I write in support of the Tribes request for appropriations funding for the replacement of the Fort Hall Fire District's (FHFD) Fire Station. The Fort Hall Business Council established the FHFD in 1999, and in 2000 it was combined with the EMS Department.

The mission of the FHFD is to provide high quality essential emergency services, to protect the lives and property of Reservation residents, employees, and visitors, as well as the surrounding communities. The FHFD also works to protect the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' historical, environmental, cultural and economic resources. Today, the FHFD responds to over 1,100 emergency incidents each year, covering the more than 500,000 acres on Reservation and partnering with nearby off-Reservation jurisdictions. We provide lifesaving emergency services for structural, wildfires, assistance for electrical and powerline calls, emergency medical assistance calls, and a variety of other emergency calls throughout the five districts on the Reservation.

However, of the four facilities that house our fire and rescue personnel, vehicles, and equipment, three have been deemed in disrepair, dangerous, unfit and hazardous for human occupancy – and have been ordered condemned. As a result, several pieces of apparatus must be parked outside and have been greatly impacted by the exposure. This has significantly increased the FHFD's maintenance costs and endangers their readiness to respond to emergencies. Further, the lack of safe and secure facilities jeopardizes our operations, equipment, and staff and personnel.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are committed to completing this important project for our community and will work to provide any additional funding needed. Thank you for your

consideration of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes request for funding for a fire station for the Fort Hall Fire District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Devon Boyer", written in a cursive style.

Devon Boyer, Chairman
Fort Hall Business Council
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes