

The Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act – HR 5999 was introduced by Congressman Doc Hastings (co-sponsored by Congressman Dave Reichert). If passed, this bill would allow transference of land from the US Forest Service to King and Kittitas Counties Fire District 51, Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue, a volunteer fire department. Ultimately, this transfer could allow the building of a new fire station.

Such a land acquisition would not obligate the fire district to build a new fire station. However, “this would certainly be a step in the right direction as we explore different funding alternatives”, stated Chris Caviezel, Commissioner of King and Kittitas Counties Fire District 51. “In fact, we have already had interest from such groups as the Washington State Council of Firefighters to help us in our efforts of building a new fire station.”

“Our fire station does not meet our current or future needs”, said Matt Cowan, Fire Chief. “It was originally built in the 1930’s as a maintenance shop and over the decades has been used for many different activities until it became the headquarters for our Fire Department. The station has a vast multitude of issues such as non-compliant electrical system, major structural weaknesses, not enough apparatus bays, apparatus bays are not long enough or wide enough, not enough dorm space, not enough office space, no workout area, no smoke alarm and sprinkler system, etc.”

Many of the emergency calls responded to by Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue are for people traveling to and from places like Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Spokane, and Yakima. “Historically, up to 84% of our emergency calls will be for non-residents,” stated Cowan.

A new fire station at Snoqualmie Pass benefits anyone and everyone that crosses Snoqualmie Pass. The new fire station would be located near the on ramp to Exit 53, and would be more accessible to I-90, as well as more accessible to the dedicated volunteers, thereby improving response times.

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue asks you to take a few minutes and send a letter of support for HR5999 to Congressman Hastings and Congressman Reichert. Their addresses are below.

Congressman Hastings
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Congressman Reichert
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

If you have any questions, or would like a copy of a sample letter please email
Chris Caviezel at chriscaviezel@snoqualmiepassfire.org.