

Presented to

Senate Committee: Rural Communities and Economic Development

April 2, 2013

Chair Roblan and members of the Committee:

I am Katie Cannon. I was the Director of Marketing at the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center from 1989 to 1994; the interim director from 1994 through 1995 and the Director from 2000 to 2005.

I support SB 7 generally since it has always been difficult to meet the requirements of a state agency with such an entrepreneurial entity as the State Fair and Exposition Center. This legislation will give the organization the flexibility to react to the market and better meet the demands of the public.

I support the bill if, and only if, there is adequate funding to support the new organization while it is developing. I realize the ultimate goal is to have the organization be financially self-supporting but it may take longer than what we anticipate.

I agree with the -2 amendments presented today especially concerning the time frame and the number and make-up of board members.

I do have some small issues SB 7 which I would like to share with the committee:

- The condition of the facilities and grounds at the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center. These facilities and grounds are the property of the State of Oregon. It is unrealistic to expect a new organization to get these facilities up to code and in good working order with the monies available. The State may have to invest funding for maintenance for the facilities to stay functional. It is my understanding that the facilities need \$20 million in structural and roof repair. I don't think that amount includes electrical, plumbing or HVAC.
- Moneys may not be withdrawn or paid out without the chair and vice-chair signature or the director and any council members. (page 12; lines 12-17)
 - Generally this is good practice but there needs to be some flexibility at a certain level or situations. For example, if you terminate an employee, you may need to have the check ready at termination or if you receive something that is a COD.
 - SOLUTION: The board should allow the director sign checks of a certain nature or under a certain amount without a council member signature. Council should define procedures when the executive director can sign checks and what checks and balances are to be in place to prevent inappropriate expenditures.
- Council shall adopt a budget on a biennial basis. (page 13, lines 31 through page 14; line 3)
 - June 30 is an unrealistic cutoff date since it is 60 days before the annual fair.
 - SOLUTION: Budgeting process should be on a calendar year so you can better evaluate the expenses and revenues for a single fair. It will still allow reporting to the legislative body in a timely manner.

Thank you. If you have further questions, please contact me.

Katie Cannon

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