

March 25, 2021

Oregon State Legislature

RE: Bill #3173

To who it my concern,

I would like to offer my support to the passage of the bill referenced above.

As someone who works with the fair industry across the country, I have seen in countless communities nationwide how much a fairground is a hub for that community and how so many different aspects of the lives of its citizens happen there . From the obvious – the annual fair, the truck rallies, concerts, etc., to the 'hidden' aspects so many don't consider or even notice. Those can include providing emergency shelter for people or animals, acting as staging areas for emergency teams during crises events, providing a place for fundraising activities for special programs and so many more. To not provide the funding necessary to keep those bastions of our communities healthy and whole is to not support one of the foundations that binds us all together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerry Ross President, Harmony Artists, Inc.