

April 15, 2021

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Oregon Ways & Means Committee

Dear Co Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Good Afternoon Co chairs and Members of the committee my Name is Mindy Winegar from the Grant County Fairgrounds.

I am here testifying to you today in regards to house bill 3173. Over the years and especially this year fairgrounds have always come to the calling for any community need, emergencies and now pandemics, as we have stepped into these rolls year after year we have also or lost our revenue stream. This year we lost our fairs, rodeos, youth events, nonprofit fundraisers and more. Our fairs have been left financially strapped & do not receive tax dollars thru the general fund and we are not eligible for most grants.

Fairs have been around for over 100 years. They are the one thing that keep all cultures and traditions alive. They are the most diverse organizations, fairs are for everyone.

Fairs across Oregon are a major economy drivers to the areas they serve. Our Fairgrounds alone brings in well over 38,000 people to our community which in turn generates close to 2million in revenue to our small rural county.

We need the passing of HB3173 that will eliminate an old funding cap that was put in place years ago. This bill will help all fairs stay alive for our communities and more important for emergency disaster response. I urge you to support the passing of HB3173

Thank you for your time & Consideration

Mindy Winegar