

Thank you, committee members, for giving me this time to share our support for HB 3173 and concerns for the union county fairgrounds sewer and water.

I am Jamie Jo Haddock. Born and raised in Union County and following in my grandmothers and mother's footsteps was recently elected as Union County Fair Board President.

Union County is proud of our fair. It is the event of the year to celebrate our cultural, economic, and educational endeavors of our agricultural community. We consider ourselves to be successful at putting on a fair 7 days a year.

Our success as a fair and the current state of our fairgrounds are grossly different.

Our buildings were built between 1926 and 1964. The sewer and water have been pieced together over that time with volunteer help. In recent years, and 2020 specifically, the fairgrounds have served a higher purpose. We have been central as our county's emergency location. This includes testing and vaccination locations for COVID, but also safe housing and stabling for animals and persons when wildfires and flooding have affected our own residents and neighboring communities. When asked we open our gates to all in need.

We have been in need of sewer and water upgrades for years but have recently reached a breaking point. We have no working toilets on our grounds and interruption to potable water at times. DEQ will not allow new permits on the existing septic systems. We have been working on options for new sewer/evaporation systems with varying costs ~700k. This type of new system would still require management and permitting annually at a cost to the fair board.

We have a unique opportunity summer of 2021. ODOT is working on the bridge that spans I-84 and connects the UC fair grounds and the city of La Grands sewer and water. We can piggy- back on ODOT work this summer to include needed attachments for sewer connection.

This city water connections costs more upfront but will eliminate long term management of wastewater from the grounds and connect city water to back up our existing well systems.

We need 1.5 million dollars to do it correctly. This would include underground work, pumps, and much needed toilet/shower facilities.

The Union County Fair supports HB3173 for general funding increases but have a dual ask in supporting the long-term vision of sustainable sewer/water operations for the grounds.

Thank you,  
Jamie Jo Haddock  
Union County Fair Board President.