



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Morgan, Vice Chair Nguyen, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, state representative for House District 58. I am testifying today to express my support of House Bill 2510.

This is one of the most wholesome pieces of legislation we will consider this year! All throughout Oregon, from faraway Wallowa to bustling Portland, many of life's greatest family memories are made at the local County Fair. We have an amazing opportunity this session to provide additional financial support to Oregon's County Fairs.

Oregon's County Fairs are massive economic engines in every community. Fairgrounds annually host 6 million people and sponsor 17,000 events. People attend fairs across the state, patronizing distant hotels and restaurants as they bridge the urban rural divide. Hundreds of nonprofit groups raise an average of \$10 million in charitable donations. Their total economic footprint is approximately \$52 million, supporting over 850 jobs.

The Oregon State Lottery currently allocates up to \$1.53 million annually to the County Fair Account. As operating and maintenance costs increase, Oregon's local fairgrounds require additional funding that can be used to maintain these vital economic engines. HB 2510 removes the cap and raises total funding to 1% of revenue, projected to bring in an additional \$165,000 per year to each county fair.

HB 2510 also requires Business Oregon to work with County Fairs to develop 5- and 10-year capital plans. Business Oregon would retain a consultant who works with each County Fair on an individual basis. This expenditure is covered by a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 for the biennium.

Oregon's County Fairs are destined to continue making memories that last a lifetime for all attendees, from young children seeing their first rodeo to old couples remembering their first Ferris Wheel Date. This investment ensures that our County Fairs remain a recreational and economic institution for generations to come, expanding their potential when the current revenue cap would limit their opportunities for growth. I urge you to support our County Fairs.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.