



POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners

CRAIG A. POPE
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Administrative Officer

February 7, 2023

Re; HB 2510 support testimony.

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Nguyen, members of the
Committee,

My name is Craig Pope. I am a Polk County Commissioner and have been the liaison to my fairgrounds team and our Polk County Fair Board for more than 12 years. I understand the value and critical need to maintain our fairgrounds as a county-wide meeting place and show center as much as anyone could.

I am confident you have read, heard and witnessed the talking points by many of our colleagues supporting this legislation and I agree with them so I will avoid repeating all of them. However, I wish to tell you how important the success of this legislation would be for our county.

The Polk County Fair Board, Fairgrounds and Expo Center staff and the Polk County Board of Commissioners are always looking for proper funding partners and means of investment, including county general funds that help support just the basic maintenance of our 36 acres and 125000 square feet under roof and the accompanying infrastructure systems that support all of that at our Fair and Expo Center. The funding for fairgrounds to meet maintenance needs alone has never kept up with demand across the state and was the driver for legislation to tap Oregon Lottery funds in the first place.

Please help us get this legislation across the finish line and deliver the 1% funding that is so deeply needed.

Commissioner Craig Pope