

Submitter: Kristen Shelman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

Good Afternoon, Honorable Chair Bynum, honorable vice chair Morgan, & members of the committee.

For the record my name is Kristen Shelman, and I'm a Harney County Commissioner.

I'm here today to support House Bill 2510

1. The Harney County Fairgrounds is a hub in our community. I serve as the liaison to our Fair Board. I see firsthand the amount of diverse events that take place year-round and it is the only venue that is large enough for most of these events to occur.

2. I will name just a few of the diverse events that are held at our Fairgrounds annually. Some of these are our local Tribe's Pow Wow, 4H, FFA, Harney County Park and Recreation, local youth clubs, weddings, fundraising events, a staging area for our Emergency Management Team, BLM, and Forest Service fire crews, local Range Fire Protection Agencies, vendors events, dog, llama, horse, and cattle shows, a Demolition Derby, 6 rodeos, Migrant Bird Festival, an equine therapy program for local foster kids and kids at risk, and Public Health vaccine clinics. It also is one of the few places for dog owners to exercise their dogs and be able to care for their pets.

3. Harney County's budget can barely support essential staffing services that are needed to run a Fairgrounds. We will never be able to make need improvements without help from the State of Oregon and from your committee. I ask at this time that you open a better way to provide stable funding for long term investments that are needed to maintain our fairgrounds and support the important uses for the public at our fairgrounds.

I appreciate your time today. The work you will do today can have a huge impact for our County and other counties across Oregon. I welcome any committee member to come and enjoy one of the many events held at the Harney County Fairgrounds. I ask for your support of HB-2510, as present, but do share concerns with the amendment allocating 20% of the funds to horse racing. Harney County in recent years has dropped horse racing from our Fair events because of lack of viability and additional costs to our County that it required. Thank you, Commissioner Kristen Shelman.