

Submitter: Brandi Ebner

On Behalf Of: Oregon Horse Council

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

On behalf of the Oregon Horse Council, we strongly recommend that you support HB2510. Fairgrounds across Oregon are crucial to our culture and life, and host year-round events that provide an avenue for community to gather and provide enormous economic impact in every county. Every year, natural disasters impact at least one area of our state, but often multiple areas. The key location for the community to seek shelter for humans and animals, provide a safe place for emergency services to base out of, and resources for the community. This amazing service does not come for free - every fairgrounds in Oregon struggles making enough money on rentals to keep up with decades of deferred maintenance, rising costs for products and staffing, and higher than ever utilities. When the original bill was passed, those involved likely did not see the future impact of the capping language.

Fairgrounds across Oregon are vitally important for the equine industry in Oregon. We use their indoor arenas for riding, horse shows, clinics, and fair for all ages. We use their meeting halls for banquets, awards night, workshops, and trainings. The equine industry sees fairgrounds as valued partners and we want them to be able to fund their needs and staffing for many years to come. Fairgrounds have suffered the past few years with the impact of COVID-19. They need the full funds that this original bill intended - the full 1% of lottery funds. This could be nearly \$360,000 per fairgrounds - for many that is an incredible increase in their budget!

The Oregon Horse Council urges you to support the fairgrounds across Oregon by voting in favor of HB2510.