



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

February 8, 2023

To: House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

Subject: Support for HB 2510

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Morgan, and Members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of Washington County in support of HB 2510 which would remove the requirement that the net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery allocated to the County Fair Account not exceed \$1.53 million annually. Further, the measure establishes a master plan for county fairground capital construction.

Through the myriad of crises that our state has faced in recent years our fairgrounds have been there. Washington County's Westside Commons has been responsive to those impacted by COVID-19 and the wildfires in surrounding communities. We have ensured that people were able to feel safe amidst an entirely turbulent time in their lives.

More so, Westside Commons has served as a place of refuge and reflection for the diverse communities who have used the space in the last several years. It has also been a place for entrepreneurship, where small business owners could sell their products at the different events that are held throughout the year at our facility.

However, as we look to the future, we know that the demand for events will only continue to grow as new entrepreneurs rise in our communities who will bring bold new visions to light at our fairgrounds and we know they will bring new diverse events and performers to our communities. Oregon needs a plan for what is coming, and this bill is directly responsive to that vision.

We urge your support of HB 2510 so that Oregon can be the premiere destination for diverse events of all sizes and cultures and entrepreneurship in all its new forms.

Thank you,

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