

Submitter: Brian Crow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

I am writing to you today to urge you to support HB 2510. I know you are very busy this session so I will try to be brief.

Fairgrounds across the state have stood up our resources over the last several years in support of our communities by providing evacuation centers during natural and man-caused disasters. Specifically in 2020 during the wildfires that ravaged much of Oregon. We have shown our communities and the state that we are a critical resource when disaster strikes. We stood up resources to support the state during COVID, as a distribution point for hundreds of thousands of vaccinations.

Not only are we a critical disaster management resource, we are an economic driver. A recent economic study by Oregon State University estimated that fairgrounds generated an economic footprint of approximately \$52 million in output, \$28 million in value-added income, and 867 full- and part-time jobs.

In today's economy, the additional revenue we will see from removing the \$1.53M cap for lottery funds will allow our Fair and Event Center to hire much-needed staff and provide financial resources to help us start chipping away at decades of deferred maintenance.

Please support this critical resource and economic hub by voting yes on HB 2510.

Thank you.