



UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Donna Beverage, Commissioner
Paul Anderes, Commissioner
R. Matthew Scarfo, Commissioner

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Chair Bynum and members of the committee.

I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes. I am also a retired Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor of 32 years, 23 of those years at La Grande High School in Union County.

In both of those roles mentioned, I am in support of HB2635 for the following:

As noted in my previous testimony, Union County Fairgrounds hosts a number of events other than the Union County Fair in August. (more than 23 distinct events) Our Fairgrounds is so much more than one-week in the summer featuring youth livestock, funnel cakes and carnival rides that over 18,000 people attended in 2022. Our Fairgrounds is a go-to space for community events all year long.

The events have included:

Eastern Oregon Beer Fest
Celebrate La Grande
Grande Ronde Hospital Employee Appreciation Day
Eastern Oregon Music festival
Eastern Oregon Celtic Festival
Horse shows
Eastern Oregon University student groups host socials and dances
RV Camping spaces
Peewee livestock showmanship (Along with Over the hill Livestock showmanship)
Mutton Bustin'
Boarding livestock displaced by the 2020 wildfires in Western Oregon
Solar Power conference
Youth educational presentations
Historical society meetings
Community Fundraisers
Teen Dances
Talent Shows
Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation Summer Event
Holiday Bazaars
Truck shows
Oktoberfest
Youth Arts events
Motorcycle Rallies
Hosting Wildland fire camps

When our area had an early and severe COVID outbreak in June of 2020, Union County Fairgrounds was the site of our mass testing event.

As you can see it serves our community year-round.

As commissioners we have increased funding in our budgets and through Federal COVID Relief money. These amount to band aids given the continuous cost increases and a cap on lottery proceeds supporting Fairgrounds.

We are trying to hold each and every one of these events without the most basic services A reliable supply of water and a functioning septic system.

We need support from the State of Oregon to continue this vital economic driver for our County.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul M. Anderes".

Paul Anderes
Union County Commissioner