

Submitter: Kristina Graham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

My county (Benton) fairgrounds decided to close it's indoor horse arena to open use by equestrians. While I believe 4H still has access to the arena, regular pleasure horse owners have been ousted. The fairgrounds is in a tight spot. It's difficult for the organization to fund the animal activities that take place at a county fair. Year by year programs like the rodeo, 4H animal breeding and showing, and open arena times for equestrians have disappeared, or have become private affairs that are separate from the county fair. A controversial decision by the fairgrounds to close the horse arena and make way for a convention hall has been decried by the local horse community. With additional funding available to it, the fair board may, I hope, decide to keep the arena and open it again for public riding times. Equestrians have enjoyed casual riding, horse training, and practice for competitions in the arena. It would be lovely if they could do so again. Please pass bill HB 2510.