

Submitter: Lisa Clapp

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

I wholly support allowing county fairgrounds to glean more money from our state's lottery funds. To remove the lottery fund cap would be a tremendous boon to these public service facilities who so often struggle to maintain financial feasibility. Having been a 4-H agent, leader, and member, 4-H success has been entwined with the health of local fairgrounds since its inception. Having been a horse owner for over 50 years, I cannot possibly count the number of times I have visited, used and benefitted from fairgrounds. They have provided me secure shelter in my travels, safe and dry environments in which I have played, taught, learned and shared one of my life's greatest passions. They have been the location where life long and soul-touching relationships have formed and evolved. I have been involved with my local volunteer fire department for over 10 years and well understand the struggle that public service agencies go through even when labor is not part of the budget. Tax revenue is not enough even then. Our local fairgrounds is continually striving to diversify its service in order to cover its costs. It understands that agricultural interests have dwindled and now seeks to offer greater hospitality to a wider population. However, it is restricted by its original ag-based vision which led to the facility built around what was paramount back then. To sculpt the fairgrounds into a more modern and effective machine, more money is necessary. Let lifting the lottery fund cap be this beginning!! I attribute a major share of my life's achievements, both educationally and psychologically, to the existence of local fairgrounds. I cannot overstate how important a fairground is!! Thank you!