

Submitter: AI Short

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

I am writing on behalf of the Jefferson County Fair Board to express and encourage you to pass HB 2510. As a third year volunteer serving on the Fair Board, I have witnessed our county fair setting records in attendance the last two years following full pandemic lockdowns. People all across our State have a renewed spirit and energy to respect the traditions we likely took advantage of, prior to the pandemic. This includes quality time with our friends and families at county fairs throughout Oregon. People of all backgrounds look forward to that one week each summer, to celebrate what makes each county unique. It's only possible to sustain with your support to vote yes on HB 2510.

County fairground facilities are increasingly difficult to maintain without reliable funds to replace or improve old building structures, improve handicap accesses around the campuses, have the necessary infrastructure to use fairground property for emergency uses and allow those who are volunteering thousands of hours of their own time, be it fair board members, community leaders, 4-H and FFA organizations, etc., to keep our local fairgrounds maintained in a way to exhibit community pride and spirit. This being said, it is an economic challenge to maintain functional facilities that are structurally safe, keep them useful for various activities and events throughout a given year and increase economic benefits and opportunities we all strive to obtain for our communities. When we can achieve all this after the passage of HB 2510. Everybody, meaning all citizens within our county borders, will reap the benefits and opportunities obtained with reliable funding. With responsible planning, comes community pride and ownership of our fairgrounds. Facility use demands and event opportunities will increase benefiting all who make good use of it resulting in impactful increased revenues to the communities.

Please, eliminate the \$1.53M cap on allocations from the lottery funds and watch the flourishing activity grow across all counties and fairground properties throughout our beautiful state of Oregon!

Sincerely,

AI Short

Chairperson

Jefferson County Fair Board