



WHEELER COUNTY COURT

701 Adams St, PO Box 447, Fossil, OR 97830 | (541) 763-3460

February 9th, 2023

To: House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

From: Wheeler County & Wheeler County Fairboard

Re: Support for HB 2510

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Nguyen, and members of the Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to express to you how important the passage of HB 2510 would be for our county.

The Wheeler County Fairgrounds is an important resource that plays an integral role in hosting or supporting many local events which build community and act as economic drivers. In 2022 these events included Cycle Oregon, the Wheeler County Bluegrass Festival, Wheeler County Holiday Light Festival, 4H events, and of course, the annual Wheeler County Fair & Rodeo.

Additionally, recent disasters across the state have highlighted the need for County Fairgrounds to be ready and able to support emergency response efforts. This is especially true in frontier counties such as Wheeler where facilities capable of providing needed space and infrastructure are few and far between.

Unfortunately, the Wheeler County Fairgrounds infrastructure is aging, and the current funding cap often prevents the performance of needed maintenance and upgrade activities for existing facilities. Further, the volunteer board and two part-time Fair Board employees do not have the capacity to perform a comprehensive infrastructure study to identify and prioritize needed investments.

We believe that House Bill 2510 would effectively address these issues and help lift us and out of the cycle of struggling to pay for emergency repairs in response to infrastructure failures so that we can continue to effectively serve and support our community for many years to come.

In closing, we respectfully urge you to Vote Yes on HB 2510.

Sincerely,


N. Lynn Morley, Wheeler County Judge


Kaylee Griffith, Chair
Wheeler County Fair Board