

Submitter: RONNE LINDSAY

On Behalf Of: LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

Lake County Fairgrounds and really all of Lake County very much supports HB-2510. The Lake County Fairgrounds brings together families and fosters the positive development of youth through cultural and educational programs, and offers a gathering place for youth, private events (weddings, quinceaneras, birthdays, graduations, etc.), community fundraising banquets for local organizations (which generate thousands of dollars for projects local and throughout the state), Fair and RoundUp, Rock Shows, Sportsmen Shows, Horse shows, 4H/FFA arena educational activities and the list goes on!! The RV Park provides a stopping place for visitors, family members for week long visits, sportsmen during the related seasons, spaces during events, etc., and is utilized most of the year (due to ancient system, water is turned off Nov to March due to freezing).

The Fairgrounds averages 39,000+ visitors annually, the economic impact of the fairgrounds is over \$2.0 million. We know that fairgrounds strengthen rural communities like Lake County and play a critical role. Our Junior Livestock Auction Receipts alone at this years fair were over \$600,000, which supported youth. The economic impact of the fairgrounds local events, is essential for bringing business to local hotels, restaurants, retail stores and of course fuel stations! Tourism plays a key role in the economic vitality of rural communities like Lake County, and fairground events positively impact that.

The recent economic study by OSU estimated fairgrounds generated an economic footprint of approximately \$52 million in output, \$28 million in value-added income, and 867 full and part-time jobs. This alone, shows the impact and importance of our fairgrounds.

I would very much like to take this opportunity to ask that you vote YES on HB 2510, to eliminate the old funding cap, and provide additional investment of approximately \$165,000 per county each year. And also fund the much-needed capital infrastructure study so that we can make sure fairgrounds are ready for events and more importantly, emergency disaster response. We need to start somewhere!

Thank you again for your time and consideration!

Our fairgrounds plays a key role as a Disaster Response Site, from serving as a base camp for firefighters to housing animals during a disaster, providing infrastructure and space, providing RV spaces for evacuees and literally every inch of the fairgrounds. In the past few years, all fairgrounds have stepped up when they were needed the

most...even with the loss of revenue we experienced, we continued to step up to help. During the pandemic, we provided everything we had for clinics, with the wildfires, we again provided everything we had.

Lake County Fair & RoundUp have been in existence since 1912, the majority of building and barns are in excess of 60 yrs old and aging infrastructure continues to deteriorate. Financially, we used the majority of our reserves, during the pandemic, to continue to minimally operate and provide maintenance. The increased funds that HB2510 would provide us, would allow us to begin to address aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance issues, which will allow us to continue to be there for our communities.