

Submitter: Kaitlyn Coleman
On Behalf Of: Curry County Fairgrounds
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure: SB1038

To Whom it May Concern,

I grew up in a small community. I participated in 4H and rode horses my entire childhood. I had opportunities to work the gates at our annual rodeo during the fair, and eventually got old enough to run barrels in that same event. The stands in our arena are absolutely packed every single time we host a rodeo event. Three years ago I became the manager of the Curry County Fairgrounds. Unfortunately our Arena facility is slowly falling apart and can only be used under certain weather conditions. The footing has degraded to be unsafe for barrel racing, and the systems (water, electrical, HVAC, fire, etc) are outdated. As with many other fairgrounds, we are a self-funded facility and these capital improvements are well outside our threshold. We are working diligently to work towards a master plan renovation, including the arena, but currently feels very far out of reach. Our Arena facility has the potential to host not only the annual fair rodeo, but a series of off season rodeos, trade shows, concerts, and more, if we could only get the facility updated and fixed appropriately. I would like to urge you to look favorably on this House Bill and support both the Fairgrounds of the State as well as the world of Rodeo that provides the livelihood for many families.

Thank you for your time,

Kaitlyn Coleman