

Submitter: Espirito Meller  
On Behalf Of: All fairgrounds in Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure: SB1038

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of this bill and its expansion to include grant funding opportunities for public fairgrounds and rodeo facilities. When I was a child I lived on cattle ranches, learned how to care for livestock, and attended rodeo events regularly. Now I am an architect focused on developing the communal fabric and relationships of our communities. Buildings are places that hold relational interactions--they are the vessels in which we become communities. So many of our public facilities are in need of maintenance and renovation so that we can carry on teaching the next generation about how to use the earth to create the means of survival for our society (our 4H programs and others). We must care for the facilities that enable us to be communal! When we ignore our facilities, we ignore the future of our society and hand our grandchildren a desolate lifestyle. Let's be the generation that invests in the future of our communities!

Our fairground and rodeo facilities are also excellent Disaster Recovery Centers as they come ready with shelter, restrooms, parking, and warehouse space for relief supplies. These are multi-purpose facilities, agile, and provide for synergistic returns on our investments.

I'd like to finish with these three points:

1. Oregon Rodeos are important community gathering for many rural Oregonians, they bring people together and celebrate our western traditions;
2. Oregon Rodeos are economic engines for the communities they serve by bringing visitors and business to our communities;
3. Physical improvements to rodeo arenas and other facilities improve safety, and provide much needed support for these community gatherings.

Please vote DO PASS on SB 1038 and support Oregon Rodeos by providing grant funding for capital facility needs.