

Submitter: Larry and Jessica George

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1038

Co-chairs Taylor, Bonham and members of the Senate Business and Labor Committee,

We write today in support of SB 1038 and the -1 amendment to support local rodeos across the State of Oregon. Smaller communities are wonderful and rewarding places to live, raise families, farm, work and own a business. They have their own unique cultures away from urban centers and for many of them this includes a local rodeo. These rodeos are often the highlight of the social year in many communities and bring in opportunities to develop and support business around the tourism dollars that a local rodeo creates. Tourists coming to enjoy the show is only part of the economic boost to these communities. Business is created by the men and women who come to compete and those who support the competitors and infrastructure around the event for the weeks before, during and after a rodeo. The benefits of those spent dollars resonate through the community the rest of the year.

These small town rodeos provide economic benefits to their cities and a great cultural experience, but they also cost a significant amount of money to maintain their infrastructure and plan for capital improvements. Many of these rodeo facilities and stadiums are in need of such improvements and find it challenging to fund their maintenance and improvements.

SB 1038 with the -1 amendment provide these small town rodeos with such an opportunity. As farmers and business owners here in St. Paul as well as having served St. Paul in the Senate and House, respectively, we know the impact the St. Paul Rodeo has on the city of St. Paul and those who love to attend each year. The positive economic impact that the Rodeo creates for the City of St. Paul is crucial to many St. Paul businesses and the entertainment and enjoyment experienced by thousands of visitors over the 4th of July event each year continues to grow.

Thank you for the consideration and investment in our small rodeos across Oregon by helping to fund their ability to continue to grow, provide economic viability to their cities and entertain people from all walks of life in this unique rodeo culture. It is worth preserving.

Former Senator Larry George and Former Representative Jessica George
St. Paul, OR