

Submitter: Carmen Lopez
On Behalf Of: Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I support the bill for Oregon State Fair, SB894.

I have attended many events held at the Oregon State and Exposition Center (OSFEC) through the last couple of years.

Some happy moments are the Salem Holiday Market, where I buy gifts for friends. The Salem Holiday is a big event, I have noticed that there isn't a lot of ADA parking and the parking in the gravel lot becomes unsafe during bad weather (rain/snow) and late hours of the night.

The last 5 years I worked with people with disabilities and their families. I was a Provider Coordinator with Mentor Oregon and later with Resource Connection of Oregon. Families would tell me how their individual with special needs liked to go to the Fair for all the 11 days because there was so much to do and see. Being able to provide ADA bathrooms and parking is a must. It is important for families to have an outlet and attend a fun event without worrying about basic needs being met. Getting funding will help to ensuring safety for the public and inclusivity for people with disabilities to be parked closer to the building.

OSFEC also helped the community during hard times too. The general public wants to forget about COVID, but I felt safe going to OSFEC to get my vaccine. I didn't have to go to an unfamiliar place especially when there was already so much uncertainty at the time. The location was big that it accommodated for long lines. I went there on my own and I felt comfortable taking my mom to get her vaccine later that Spring of 2021.

OSFEC has brought a lot of people together for happy and hard times. People want to go to events and get back to a new normal after COVID. There is no better place than OSFEC to provide that outlet and to continue to provide support during uncertainty.

Please provide funding for Oregon State Fair, SB894.

Sincerely,
Carmen Lopez