

Submitter: Michel Ruby  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Ag Fest  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

To whom it may concern,

The Oregon State Fair and Expo Center is an important gathering place for our community, and we are so pleased to see it getting recognized in SB894. We are a 501(c)(3) who has been utilizing the State Fair facilities for 36 years now and see first hand both the role it plays for non-profits like ours, in addition to the key role it played during the pandemic as an emergency COVID-19 mega center on all fronts from vaccination centers to makeshift shelters. In one week, April 29-30, we will gather over 20,000 young families to provide over 25 FREE hands-on activities for kids to help them better understand where their food, fiber, flora and natural resources come from, and to celebrate the wonderful diversity and variety of Oregon agriculture. We must have facilities that are modern and safe for the public to participate, and this measure would appropriate the funds annually to help it do just that. If OSFEC thrives, all of the fairs, non-profits, and community and cultural events will also thrive. Thank you for your support of SB894. It is a game changer.

Thanks in advance for your consideration,

Michele Ruby  
Executive Director  
Oregon Ag Fest