

Submitter: Judi James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

The Oregon State Fairgrounds and our many County Fairgrounds are an important part of living in Oregon. Sadly, most if not all have a lot of deferred maintenance that not only makes it difficult for continued care use of the buildings and grounds, it reduces the ability for community businesses to use the facilities for events at reasonable prices. I host many dog related competitions at four different fairgrounds in the Willamette Valley - they are the only facilities with adequate space both indoor and out and willingness to allow dogs and their handlers to use their facilities at a reasonable price.

I've lived in Salem most of my life and attending events at the Oregon State fairgrounds in particular since the 50s. It is heartbreaking to see how much the facilities have declined in the last few decades. And it was gratifying to see this facility come to life during the pandemic and other local disasters (wildfires, floods) as an evacuation and relief center. It was the only safe, local government owned facility that could meet the huge community need for humans and animals alike.

Please support budget Bill SB5506 to fund Fairground activities throughout Salem and all of Oregon.