

Submitter: Al Short
On Behalf Of: Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Al Short, Chairperson of the Jefferson County Fair Board. I am a second-generation fair board member, as my father served in Jefferson County just over 40 years ago. I like my fellow fair board members who serve, are passionate about our fairgrounds and spend a tremendous amount of volunteering hours improving our existing structures, some dating back more than 60 years that are approaching deterioration at a faster rate than we can keep up with. The need to replace some of these structures is upon us. We are also in need of ADA upgrades and added permanent security measures, i.e., cameras and lighting.

Like many other rural fairgrounds, our fairgrounds are the main hub for various events throughout the year. We are a FEMA facility. We were the main vaccination site during the covid pandemic. We are ready to help provide the needs for evacuees in case of a natural disaster. As a board, we equally spend as much time, or more, helping maintain the facilities than just planning for 4 days of the county fair. It's a year-round job and we proudly work hard so our community can benefit having a safe and functional facility for many events each year.

Your support regarding County Fair Funding Bills SB-451 and HB-2510 is needed. By removing the \$1.5 million dollar cap and return to the 1% of lottery, funding the 34 county fairgrounds and Oregon State Fair, it should bring it the point that we don't have to keep asking for more funding in the future. The passage of these bills become a real game-changer and provides relief for our county and counties everywhere to make good decisions improving county fairground facilities throughout our beautiful state of Oregon.

Thank you all for your time reading my testimony and wish you all the best.

Kind Regards,

Al Short
Jefferson County Fair Board - Chairperson