

Submitter: Rochelle Baker
On Behalf Of: UNKNOWN SAYS OREGON
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I have been a participant and supporter of our county and state fairs for several decades as an exhibitor in open class competitions and a volunteer for set-up or breakdown of the craft and photo departments. We are losing our creative arts as people are heading off on social media and stuck to their cell phones etc and with the 2-year break due to Covid, instead of being involved in the enriching arts, The fairs provide a fantastic venue to supporting the arts and creativity, fairgoers usually stop in to see the exhibits and often are encouraged to do something themselves. Our children need a creative outlet to aid in their development. The fairgrounds are getting old and buildings need maintenance. this funding is crucial.

During the big fire our neighborhood donated carloads of items. I myself sent a full car of clothing, creative craft projects for the youngsters displaced, etc. The State fairgrounds was a major saving for many who would otherwise have had no safe place to go. Please support these bills, help keep the arts alive and provide a safe place for those in need during disasters. The world is experiencing drastic climate change issues and we need to be prepared with safe centers.