

Submitter: Katelyn Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB771

Union, Oregon is a small town in Eastern Oregon and home to The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show. The EOLS has been around for 118 years, more than some towns in Oregon. However, the EOLS is not just a rodeo...it's a way of life for some, an experience for others, and payment of the future for youth. Yearly, the 4-H and FFA market livestock auction provides hundreds of thousands of dollars to the youth of our community & surrounding area. Each year the sale hits new records, most recently over \$700,000 was given back to the youth exhibitors in 2024. This feat is not a small one and takes hundreds of volunteers, thousands of hours, and hundreds of thousands of dollars to produce each year. The EOLS grounds have seen many improvements over the years but there is always something needed to be updated or repaired. In the future, the grandstands that provide seating for the rodeo spectators will need to be replaced and/or updated. This will take money the EOLS organization doesn't have on hand. And the only way the EOLS is able to produce such an outstanding youth livestock auction is because they produce a PRCA Xtreme bull riding and a 3-day PRCA rodeo. The proceeds from tickets sales pay the way for the yearly bills and improvements made. Without updates to the grandstands and rodeo facilities, this would not be possible. Funding and grants are vital to volunteer only ran non-profit organizations, especially in small towns & communities. The committees for these rodeos spend a lot of time making fixes with personal supplies and equipment to ensure things are done on a budget. If there were money available for the organizations to apply for, it would help them make better plans for the future. If this can happen, the next generations to come be given an opportunity to grow the experience the EOLS can give to spectators. This could increase the number of people that attend the yearly, weeklong event and in-turn will provide more for the youth of our community. Please consider giving support to SB 771 so that the rodeos in small communities always have a home and provide entertainment to all rodeo fans alike!

Thank you for your time,  
Katelyn Smith