

March 4, 2025

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Diehl, Vice Chair Isadore, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for House Bills 2304 and 2145. Supporting HB 2145 and HB 2304 ensures that fairgrounds remain equipped to serve Oregonians. As a grandmother watching my grandchildren thrive through participation in youth programs and as a self-employed event professional with intimate knowledge and understanding of county fairgrounds and their unique needs, I ask that you support these bills.

County Fairs serve all of Oregon. Youth programs help create strong and engaged citizens. Locally hosted events bring culture, entertainment and community celebrations to all people. Jobs are created in the food and beverage industry, service providers such as rental companies, entertainers, sound and lights companies and so much more. The positive economic impact of a healthy fairgrounds is not questioned.

Many of the Oregon's County fairground facilities are experiencing major challenges to fund ongoing maintenance and needed or required updates and improvements to assure they are ready to serve the community in times of disaster.

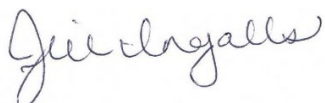
The State of Oregon relies on all county fairgrounds to be at the ready in case of any kind of disaster. Efforts to generate income through rentals and self-produced events while maintaining a facility to be at the ready for service needs the financial support of the State of Oregon.

Previously funding levels have not kept pace with the need, contributing to delayed maintenance and infrastructure improvements at many county fairgrounds.

Sufficient funding from the State of Oregon is critical to support the fairgrounds and fair industry for all Oregonians.

We are asking for legislators to:

- Eliminate the cap established 20 years ago and fully fund 1% of lottery funds to county fairs with 90% of funds going to county fairgrounds and 10% of funds going to the state fairgrounds.
- Support an additional \$20.839 million to the state fairgrounds for infrastructure improvements as a regional emergency and evacuee center
- Fund a study and additional capital project improvements to state and county fairgrounds to ensure they can continue as resilience/disaster response, economic, social, cultural, and educational hubs in our communities.
- Support an investment of \$2.5 million to the Union County Fairgrounds for health and safety infrastructure, including running water and sewer.



Respectfully submitted,
Jill Ingalls
40161 Baptist Church Drive
Lebanon Oregon 97355
541-979-0919
events@ingallsagency.com