



## *City of Elgin*

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Greetings Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore, Committee members

The City of Elgin supports HB 2527. Union County has engaged with the state legislature numerous times over the past several years to obtain assistance and funding to upgrade the sanitary facilities at the Union County Fairgrounds. The current septic system is unsustainable, resulting in the absence of flushing toilets. Union County's only feasible solution is to connect to the City of La Grande's water and sewer system; however, the Grande Ronde River and Interstate 84 present significant challenges, complicating Union County's funding efforts.

The Union County Fairgrounds have recently been designated as a resiliency hub in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. These hubs are established in every county to serve as points of distribution for supplies, temporary evacuation centers, and emergency shelters during wildfires, winter power outages, and other emergencies. As critical infrastructure, these hubs play a vital role in Union County's ability to ensure safety and resilience from Elgin to Starkey, North Powder to Tollgate, and everywhere in between.

The county fairgrounds are a vital resource for residents of Elgin and the rest of Union County, especially now as it serves as a designated resiliency hub. In addition to hosting the annual county fair, the fairgrounds will be a critical venue for emergency support, educational programs, and conferences, further enhancing its role in safeguarding and strengthening Union County's ability to protect Elgin and other local communities during times of crisis.

The City of Elgin asks that the Committee send HB 2527 to the House Floor and Ways & Means with a Do-Pass recommendation. The House Bill provides the \$2.5 million that is necessary to complete these critical infrastructure upgrades at the Union County Fairgrounds Resiliency Hub.

Best regards,

Alex McHaddad, Elgin City Administrator