

Submitter: Anthony Haddock
On Behalf Of: 4-H and FFA
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2527

Written Testimony in Support of Appropriating Funds for Water and Sewer
Improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds

Submitted by:

Tony Haddock

Beef Superintendent, Educator, and Parent

Date: March 9, 2025

To: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as the Beef Superintendent for the Union County Fair, as an educator, and as a parent to strongly support the proposed appropriation of funds from the General Fund to the Union County Fair Association. These funds will be used for much-needed water and sewer improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds, which are critical for the continued success of our fairgrounds and the many programs, including 4-H and FFA, that rely on this space.

As the Beef Superintendent, I work closely with youth participants in the livestock program, and I have seen firsthand the positive impact the Union County Fairgrounds has on their lives. Every year, youth from across our community participate in the fair, showcasing their hard work, skills, and dedication in the livestock exhibits. The fairgrounds provide these young people with a unique opportunity to learn, grow, and engage with their community. However, the current water and sewer infrastructure is outdated and inadequate for the growing number of participants, families, and visitors.

Improving these systems is essential for the health and safety of everyone who uses the fairgrounds, especially the youth involved in livestock activities. By modernizing the water and sewer systems, we will ensure that the fairgrounds remain a safe, functional, and accessible space for exhibitors, visitors, and volunteers. Furthermore, the upgrades will allow the fairgrounds to continue serving as an emergency shelter during times of crisis, providing a crucial resource for our community in emergencies. These improvements will also help support the economic vitality of our region. The Union County Fairgrounds hosts a wide variety of events year-round, and modernized infrastructure will enable us to attract more events, benefiting local businesses and contributing to the overall health of our community.

I respectfully urge you to support this important investment in the future of the Union County Fairgrounds. These upgrades will ensure that the fairgrounds continue to serve as a valuable resource for our youth, our community, and our local economy for many years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tony Haddock
UCF Beef Superintendent, Educator, and Parent