

Submitter: Kelly Simmelink
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2527

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

For 6+ years, Commissioners from across the State have rallied for the removal of the cap on the 1% of Video Lottery Funds dedicated to County Fairgrounds. Since the implementation of the cap, ALL County Fairgrounds, including the State Fairgrounds, have deferred maintenance simply for lack of funds. As you are well aware, there are many bills in this session that we hope will address this.

Union County Fairgrounds is a prime example of how a FAIR investment by the State years ago, would have made the issues they are dealing with much easier. I have stood in the offices of our Legislators with Union County Commissioners for many years in a row, advocating for their Health & Safety request for the their Fairgrounds. As a Commissioner, I can tell you that an overwhelming majority of Commissioners across the State support Union County to get water and sewer to their facility. I have been on the site many times, and I am dismayed that this Emergency Response and Reunification site has NO water or sewer.

I believe that your support of this bill (one time fix), and the removal of the cap as found in SB 780 will ensure that ALL OREGON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS are able to go forward and thrive with a minimal chance of ever appearing in front of the Legislature again with an ask. I strongly encourage you to support OREGON by supporting Union County and HB 2527.

Thank You,
Kelly Simmelink
Jefferson County