

Submitter: Melinda Becker-Bisenius
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2527

Dear Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2527, which proposes appropriating \$2.5 million for distribution to the Union County Fair Association. These funds are intended to support essential water and sewer improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds, located in La Grande, Oregon.

The Union County Fairgrounds serve as a vital hub for community events, agricultural exhibitions, and educational activities that benefit residents across the region. Connecting the fairgrounds to the City of La Grande's water and septic systems and constructing new indoor restroom facilities are critical steps toward enhancing the infrastructure necessary to host such events effectively. As a 4-H/FFA alumni and parents of 4-H/FFA children, our Fair Grounds are vital to the success of these two organizations. Without the upkeep of the facilities, these programs could be in jeopardy.

The public hearing held on March 10, 2025, demonstrated widespread support for this initiative, with 22 public testimonies submitted in favor of HB2527. Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes highlighted the importance of this funding, noting that written testimony would continue to be accepted through March 12, 2025. This level of community engagement underscores the project's significance to our area.

I respectfully urge you to support HB2527 to ensure that the Union County Fairgrounds receive the necessary resources to continue serving our community effectively. Approving this funding will not only improve local infrastructure but also enhance the quality of events and services available to residents and visitors like our 4-H & FFA kids.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to the development and well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,
Melinda Becker-Bisenius
Union County Resident
4-H/FFA alumni
4-H/FFA parent

