

Submitter: Honour Bowen
On Behalf Of: Oregon State University Extension
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2527

For the past 20 years, I have been actively involved with the Union County Fair. As the former Union County 4-H Program Assistant and now the OSU Extension Administrative Office Manager, I have witnessed the profound impact that fairs and community involvement have on our youth. Unfortunately, the Union County Fairgrounds are in dire need of improvement. Both 4-H and FFA depend greatly on this facility for their activities. We are blessed to have the Fair board's support in using these facilities, and work diligently to help keep the grounds up, it simply isn't enough.

The Union County Fairgrounds are steeped in rich history spanning many years in this community. Observing the current state and considering the future for our youth and the facilities, I am alarmed that without the support of this bill and the crucial improvements to the grounds, we risk ending that legacy. Our community's youth take immense pride in their involvement with 4-H and FFA. It is time to support the growth of these programs, restore the facility, and make it a venue that people are proud to attend. Enhancing these facilities will not only boost fair attendance but also increase their use throughout the year, providing an additional resource for our local community.