

Submitter: Tim Topliff

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 this committee in support of HB2527. As the current serving Union County Fair Board President, I can't stress the importance of HB2527. Since moving to Union County my wife and our children have been involved in the 4H and FFA programs and has been a large part of our lives.

As the current serving Board President, I have given numerous talks and tours outlining our plan and future possibilities that would become available to the members in 4H and FFA, the general public, and Union County. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the hearing I was unable to testify in Salem as we are in the middle of shipping seed and planting.

Currently the fairgrounds serves a multitude of functions other than just for the county fair. It has been a location for multiple festivals/rallies, reunions, company picnics and barbeques, weddings, quinceaneras, birthday parties, high school dances, and many more events than can be named. However, most importantly it serves as location for members of the community to come together in good times and bad. It serves as the county's resiliency hub in partnership with Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Department of Emergency Management. In the event of emergency or disaster it is a location for community members can seek for shelter and supplies, a location for emergency personnel providers can give their assistance, a location where wildland fire fighters can stay in the event of a forest fire, and a location citizens evacuate themselves and livestock too.

As you can see by my letter and others the fairgrounds has served as more than just a location for a county fair, it is the communities meeting spot. For these reasons and others I urge for the approval of HB2527 in hopes that we can bring operational facilities and sewer to the county's fairgrounds to be used by all when needed.

Thank you,
Tim A. Topliff
Fair Board President