

March 11, 2025

The House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade
Via electronic upload

RE: HB 2527

To Whom it May Concern:

The Common Council for the City of Island City fully supports HB 2527. This bill would provide essential funding to complete much-needed water and sewer improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds in La Grande. These upgrades have been overdue for some time and are critical to ensuring the fairgrounds can continue to serve our community effectively.

While the Union County Fairgrounds are not located within Island City limits, their impact is deeply felt by our residents. The fairgrounds serve as a vital hub where Union County citizens gather to celebrate our community's achievements and come together during times of crisis.

Importantly, the Union County Fairgrounds are the designated evacuation site for much of the county in the event of a disaster. This site functions as the central staging area for disaster response coordination and serves as the County's disaster command center. When wildfires threaten our region, the fairgrounds provide a crucial base camp for firefighters. Unfortunately, with the current state of the water and sewer infrastructure, the fairgrounds are ill-equipped to provide adequate support during emergencies.

By supporting HB 2527, you will help ensure that Union County residents have a safe, functional, and reliable site to depend on when disaster strikes. We strongly urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Karen Howton

Karen Howton
City Recorder/Administrator
City of Island City

Cc: file