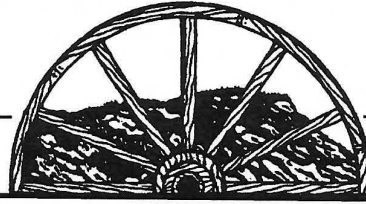


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CITY OF



LA GRANDE

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THE HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON

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OFFICE of the MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL PO BOX 670 La Grande, OR 97850 Phone: 541-962-1309

March 11, 2025

ATTN: House Committee On  
Economic Development,  
Small Business, and Trade  
900 Court St. NE, H-378  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Supporting HB 2527: Relating to Union County Fairgrounds

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl & Isadore, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Rock and I am the Mayor of the City of La Grande, Union County, Oregon. I am pleased to submit my testimony in strong support for HB 2527; Relating to Union County Fairgrounds – Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Union County Fair Association for the purpose of water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds.

Union County is the only fairgrounds in our state that does not have running water and sewer.

The Union County Fairgrounds is an essential hub for our county. The Fairgrounds is not only a hub for our county, and a great place for family, friends, community members and tourist to congregate and to bring tourism to our wonderful and beautiful community; but it is also the centralized location point for any major events or crises that may happen in our community. Without the essential water and sewer at our crisis location, it makes it that much more difficult to serve our community during times of emergency, when emergency management should be focusing on the crisis at hand and not trying to figure out how to get water and portable toilets to our fairgrounds to help our community members in their time of need.

Since 2021, Union County has been trying to secure funding. With the current economic trajectory, costs are just going to continue to get more expensive to construct this much needed infrastructure to our fairgrounds. Without the passing of HB 2527, the fairgrounds cannot get the additional funding needed to complete this much needed project.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2725 so that not only will future generations have the fairgrounds in proper working order, but that our community can benefit and thrive from this project.

I want to thank you for your time and attention to this very important issue to our community.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Justin Rock