

Submitter: Amy Lusk-Bond

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2527

I grew up in LaGrande and participated in several community activities at the Union County Fair Grounds including the Blue Mtn Rodeo, the Union county fair through 4-H, and high school activities as well. As an adult I have been an art vendor at several Union County Fairs and Octoberfest gatherings plus scrap book weekend gatherings with friends. The fairgrounds provide a wonderful space for fellowship, as long as you don't need to go to the bathroom or drink any water. This, is a handicap that is completely healable with the installation of toilets and potable water. The lack of a wastewater process is truly an hindrance to economic and cultural growth in our community as it keeps us from inviting and supporting entertainment and cultural events that would otherwise include us in their travel routes. I am so hoping for the approval of the waste water project of my family and friends at the Union County Fair Grounds because these good people have been roughing it for as long as I can remember and in spite of the lack of facilities they are thankful to even have a piece of land to gather and share the goodness of rural living. It would be better for the health and prosperity of everyone; and they so deserve it! At a facility this large, that serves an entire county, I am shocked that this wasn't taken care of 30 or more years ago. I imagine it's easy to overlook the Oregonians on the east side of the state because there are fewer of us, and we learn to make do with what we have with general ingenuity and grit, but to not have toilets and drinking water in a public facility that serves thousands of people, in the year 2025, is an embarrassment on our government shoulders. Yet, it's also an opportunity for our state government to fill the gaps in our facilities foundation for economic and cultural growth in eastern Oregon as well. The Union County FairGrounds has the potential to prosper. Let's make it so!