

On behalf of myself as an Oregonian and the members of the Live Events Industry of Oregon coalition, we strongly support the removal of the County Fair allocation cap.

Beyond being an important part of the Events Industry ecosystem, it's important to note the \$80mil impact that these annual events have on the communities and counties in which they happen. Beyond this though, fairground facilities are highly important as a gathering venue for non-fair events such as weddings, fundraisers, festivals, concerts, auctions, sporting events, and even business events, trade shows, and consumer shows. In so many cases, these facilities are the single best locations to ensure that many events, especially in more rural counties, can happen at all.

But let me make the most important point, one which is especially salient today: The entire Events Industry has suffered a highly disproportionate impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and our state's necessary closure of events businesses of all kinds, including fairgrounds, that (in normal times) usually thrive in Oregon's events world. Our industry was the first to shutter, and will be the last to reopen...and to make matters worse, has had precious little help from the very governments that shuttered us.

With this in mind, in addition to other remedies our coalition is currently advocating for, we heartily recommend the passage of this measure, to help revive and support our fairgrounds.

Thank you.