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RE: Support House Bill 3173

Removing the funding cap will provide additional much needed investment into the county Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds serve in so many critical ways for the community. The cancellation of festivals, trade shows, expositions, equestrian events, craft and hobby shows, fundraisers, and pretty much all social events left the fairground financially strapped.

The fairground is a hub for the community. In 2019:

- Fairgrounds hosted 6.15 million people during annual fairs and over 17,000 local
- events, bringing business to local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, and service providers.
- Over 600 non-profit groups used our fairgrounds to generate more than \$10 million in charitable donations.
- 10,000 volunteers dedicated over 200,000 hours of volunteer service at their local fairgrounds.
- Fairgrounds directly employed 479 workers with a payroll of over \$10 million

My interest is in serving and supporting the better interest in all fairgrounds. Please support in removing the funding cap so the fairgrounds can make much needed infrastructure improvements and be ready for all much needed future events.

Best regards,

Rebecca Thurman

CEO of Billboards Etc.