

I encourage you to support this bill. During the last few years, rural fairgrounds have become the emergency response location for the numerous emergency situations, in addition to the normal critical role every day, week, and month of the year. Wildfire evacuees, COVID shot clinics, safe haven for evacuated animals, such as horses, cows, etc, and many more have used the grounds in time of desperation. The rural fairgrounds have long since evolved from the once-a-year County Fair that existed when the restriction on Lottery dollars was put in place. In Josephine County we have over 1900 events a year, year-round, with over 200,000 users on the grounds. Due to economic troubles over the years, the Fairgrounds has been neglected and deferred maintenance has become a huge burden on the safe usage of the grounds. We are working on a 15 year Master Plan, but we don't know if we'll get the funding needed to keep in operation today. Please consider the huge impact Oregon fairgrounds have in the local communities and support this bill. Thank you.