



**CITY ADMINISTRATION**  
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March 24, 2021

State of Oregon Legislature  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
Chair Representative Brad Witt  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of HB 3173

Dear Chair Representative Witt and Committee Members,

The City of Prineville City Council would like to take this opportunity to express our support of HB 3173, which provides funding to county fairgrounds. HB 3173 will accomplish two important factors which the city is in favor of. It will eliminate the funding cap implemented many years ago for future funding, which could provide additional funding of approximately \$165,000 per county per year. Secondly, this bill provides for a capital infrastructure study that would assist fairgrounds statewide to be prepared for future events and emergency disaster response.

Our Crook County Fairgrounds is a vital part of our community. This last year it has also served as a statewide emergency resource for wildfire relief efforts. It provided space to thousands of people and animals displaced by the devastating wildfires Oregon experienced. In addition, the fairgrounds has served as an emergency center, makeshift hospital, testing centers, law enforcement training center, vaccination clinics, outdoor basketball courts for our students and is very much a part of the community.

The fairgrounds is one of, if not the biggest visitors attraction in our community. The fairgrounds is host to the horse races, rodeo, FFA, county fairs, Hospice auction, Christmas in the Pines and so much more. Most of these events were canceled due to COVID-19 leaving the fairgrounds strapped financially, since it is not eligible for most federal COVID relief funding.



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The City of Prineville strongly encourages your continued support to county fairgrounds by eliminating a funding gap and to fund the capital needs infrastructure assessment, so that they can be better prepared for the community's and regional needs of the future.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Uffelman  
Council President