

March 24, 2021

Letter of support for Oregon HB 3173, 2021

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

I, Reilly Drye, strongly support this legislation. My own experiences with the county fair while growing up has tremendously helped to shape the individual I am today. Being able to participate in the yearly county fair helped to teach me the value of working towards a goal, day in and day out, it helped to teach me to put my best foot forward not only on the day that I would be displaying my work but on every day that lead up to then. I can say with certainty, I would not be able to contribute to the long term goals that transform workplaces, communities, and society with the patience and determination that I can today without the experiences gleaned from the county fair.

In addition, the county fair gave me experience with having a platform on which to share my knowledge and experiences with other people who were far removed from the industry I was so deeply involved in. This taught me how to share facts with people who didn't always agree, in a way that was honoring and kind but still steadfast and unwavering, it taught me the power of educating the people around me to better reflect my background, culture, and livelihood while simultaneously inviting them into my experiences and giving them experiences of their own.

For this bill to pass would be a huge step forward in continuing to give the youth of Oregon the chance to grow and learn in these same ways.

Thank you,
Reilly Drye