

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson and members of the committee,
Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB 3173 that could add resources to a hub in our community - our annual fair and fairgrounds.

In rural, frontier Harney County the county fair still remains the event of the year for many in the community. With ranches and residents over 100 miles from the fairgrounds, this has always been a time for folks who have been putting up hay all summer, caring for their livestock, and generally tending to their places to all come to town for a couple of days to catch up and catch their breath. More now than ever this seems needed. A few years ago, during a water planning collaborative meeting everyone was asked what they would like Harney County to be in 30 years. I was really trying to put my finger on how to answer that question and when it came down to me, I said "I would still like the county fair going strong in 30 years". And ever since then, I decided I better do my part while I can and maybe be around to celebrate that fair in 30 years. A county fair is about celebrating the community, showcasing and supporting our youth, grieving losses of the past year and putting aside a disagreement or two to put on an event that brings together a community for a couple days each fall. This is the ultimate in coming together, working together and finding our common ground and it all starts at the fair. We need our fairs and fairgrounds. Thank you.