

DEL RIO

VINEYARD ESTATE

March 25, 2021

The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 3173. As a member of the Jackson County Fair board, I fully support this bill. This last year I was amazed at what our Jackson County fair was able to do and offer our community. The resilience of the team was outstanding. Southern Oregon, as most of the state, was severely impacted by wildfires in September. The fairgrounds became the emergency shelter for victims for the Almeda Fire and Obenchain Fire. Our fair director worked directly with multiple agencies from the Red Cross to FEMA in offering support for fire victims. Our partnership has not ended as the site is still being use by FEMA in continued support of rebuilding our community.

This last January we witnessed an incredible effort to vaccinate our teachers and healthcare professionals against COVID-19. With Asante we were able to conduct two weekend events that vaccinated over 7,000 individuals. Our fairgrounds have continued to support Jackson County, our community, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

With all that 2020 has brought us it clear that fair support statewide is crucial. Not only do they support during moments of crisis, but they are a vital cultural, educational, and economic hub for our community. Please support HB 3173 and invest in our fairs.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Rob Wallace
Del Rio Vineyards
Vice Chair, Jackson County Fair board