



## Support HB 3173

In the past year, our county fairgrounds and the state fair stepped up when our communities needed them the most. Through the global pandemic, wildfire relief efforts, and now vaccination efforts, our fairgrounds were transformed overnight into testing centers, makeshift hospitals, shelter for thousands of people and animals, and now mass vaccination clinics.

Meanwhile, our fairs, youth education events, cultural festivals, trade shows and expositions, equestrian events, craft & hobby shows, consumer shows, non-profit fundraisers, and community social events were almost all cancelled. This left counties and their fairgrounds financially strapped and ineligible for most federal COVID relief funding.

In 2019 the Douglas County Fairgrounds hosted a total of 390 events with over 84,867 people on our grounds. These events generated an estimated \$1,449,540.00 reinvested back into our Community. We were able to accomplish all of this even with the weather challenges we faced including a snow storm that damaged Douglas Hall the week of the Home Show and the rain, wind and lightening threat during the annual County Fair.

In 2020 and the beginning of 2021 the devastation of having to be closed to our community and events has continued to cripple our facility. We estimate so far during the pandemic to have a loss of \$1,300,000.00 in revenue and a staffing reduction of 6 of our 9 employees. Despite all of this we are still here for our community with:

- COVID-19 Testing
- Wildfire relief for animals, humans and firefighters fighting the Archie Creek Fire
- COVID-19 Vaccinations

A recent economic study by Oregon State University estimated that fairgrounds generated an economic footprint of approximately \$52 million in output, \$28 million in value-added income and 867 full and part time jobs.

HB 3173 will eliminate an old funding cap put in place years ago and provide an additional investment of approximately \$165,000 per county per year. The also funds a much-needed capital infrastructure study so that we can make sure fairgrounds are ready for events and more importantly emergency disaster response

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