

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.

The Jackson County Expo center as well as all other county fair centers around the state have shown themselves to be mission-critical to the county's ability to deal with disasters such as wildfires and the epidemic.

As you know, Southern Oregon, as well as most of the state, was severely impacted by wildfires in September.

The fairgrounds became the emergency shelter for victims for several weeks and now house FEMA trailers as they are getting deployed.

The Jackson County Health office is now using the fairgrounds to vaccinate over 10,000 citizens.

Our fairgrounds continue to support Jackson County, and our entire community, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's time for the state to step up and double down (or more) by supporting all county fairgrounds. They are critical support centers during moments of crisis, and 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,



Jim Teece  
President & CEO  
Project A, Inc.  
Board Member and Past Chair, Jackson County Fair and Expo Board