

During the last year the Lane County Fairgrounds and many other Fairgrounds around the state have been closed or restricted due to Covid-19 protocols and changing conditions in the State and County. Many Fairgrounds including ours is centrally located in a city and serves as a location to respond to disasters. We are proud to be able to say we responded to the public and community needs during not only a pandemic but a natural disaster during last years fire season. We have provided space and resources for Covid-19 testing events, Covid-19 vaccination events, shelter for unhoused individuals, emergency shelter for animals displaced by wildfires, FEMA resource center and Multi Agency Resource Centers for those individuals who were impacted by wildfires.

During that same time frame our fair, cultural festivals, trade shows, consumer shows, fundraisers and many other events were cancelled. A recent Market Analysis showed our economic impact each year is over \$35 million to our community and businesses. We provide a safe space and venue for businesses, organizations and youth groups to gather for entertainment or business and most of those had no opportunity last year to raise funds or operate their business.

HB 3173 will eliminate the old funding cap put in place years ago and provide investment into our County Fairgrounds. This bill will help support our Fairgrounds so they can stay ready for events and more importantly be prepared for future emergency disaster response.

Thank you for your support,  
Corey Buller  
Lane County Fair Manager