

Submitter: Michelle Kaseberg

On Behalf Of: Baker County Fair Board

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

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RE: HB2510

Chair Bynum and members of the committee:

My name is Michelle Kaseberg, a fair board member from Baker County, Oregon.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support for HB2510. This bill addresses future funding for the county fairs. Since the lottery funding was allocated to the county fairgrounds, it has been capped and has not been increased. Costs continue to rise for maintenance on our aging buildings, costs for payroll, and costs just to handle the day to day expenses. This amount does not allow for any adjustment for cost of living.

For our county fairgrounds to continue to support our local communities, we need to have a more stable income source than always relying on local events. The Covid pandemic proved that the fairgrounds are an essential part of the community, but cannot continue to take care of our fairgrounds with a basic amount. Local events do not make up for all the capital improvements that do need to be made to the majority of our fairground properties.

We are not asking for a complete funding change to the bill, but asking that the cap be lifted so that we can distribute the full 1% of the lottery fundings. Currently, with this cap in place each county receives approximately \$55,000 each year. It is my understanding that the amount would increase approximately \$165,000 per year and fund a much needed capital infrastructure study to assure our fairgrounds are ready to handle emergency disaster responses.

Please vote Yes on HB 2510. Thank you.