

Submitter: Chuck Patterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2510

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I am writing this testimony in support of measure HB2510.

I have been involved with fairs and rodeo my entire life. My family and friend would travel throughout the year to participate in rodeos and other events. My earliest memories of the fairgrounds are in the 70's. As I grew up, I became involved with 4-H, FFA, and as a rodeo contestant. Eventually, I became a Fair Board member from 1999-2005, volunteered afterward, then rejoined the Board in 2021. As I continue to visit various fairgrounds throughout the state, I can see that many buildings that still exist after 50+ years are in poor condition due to neglect because of lack of funds.

Jefferson County experiences the same conditions. We have members of the community tell us that they would rent more buildings, more often, if they were in better shape or improved upon. HB 2510 will be of great assistance to our grounds, and others across the state, in improving existing infrastructure. This would provide additional income and also benefit the community as well.

In addition to the disrepair of buildings and barns, there are grounds that need improved infrastructure for security reasons. With the recent active shooters, we have experienced in Oregon (Jefferson County Fair and Bend, Oregon Safeway), making the grounds more secure will show the community that we are doing our best to make sure their visit will be safe and secure. This can be accomplished by using funds from HB 2510 to install security cameras, additional lighting, and repair and/or install fencing and gates.

Please remove the cap so that fairgrounds can continue to serve the community in a safe environment.