



*Fair Office:*

668 NW First  
Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-426-4097

*Wallowa County Fair Board:*

Brinda Stanley, Board Chair  
Mike Falk, Vice Chair  
Gail Hillock, Secretary

Jen Cameron, Board Member  
Erin Freels, Board Member  
Ron Lathrop, Board Member  
Craig Yaw, Board Member

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March 5, 2023

RE: SB451 2023

Dear Committee Members.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of the issue of SB451. County Fair Grounds are traditionally the backbone of communities in Oregon. I know firsthand that this is the case in Wallowa County.

Wallowa County Event Center and Fair Grounds is used year-round by many community groups, civic events, non-profit fundraisers, annual meetings and many youth organizations. Groups using the facility include Wallowa Memorial Hospital Foundation, Enterprise Education Foundation, Wallowa County Citizens Award Banquet, WC Stockgrowers, Friends of the NRA, Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Foundation, Eastern Oregon FFA, Hells Canyon Mules Days, Wallowa Resources Watershed Festival, Open Horse shows, 4-H groups, and our own WC Fair. The facility also provides a place for happy young couples to celebrate a new marriage and place to say goodbye to beloved community members with funeral services. During wildfire events the Fair Grounds offers a safe place for livestock to be housed. When Covid had communities scared for their family and friends, Wallowa County Event Center and Fair Grounds provided our local health care facility a free place to offer covid vaccines and later covid testing.

The purpose of the Wallowa County Fair Board is not only to provide an annual fair but to maintain a year-round facility that is available to our community. Many small communities are struggling to maintain their facilities from rentals alone as there is just not enough population to allow for this, so we rely heavily on volunteers for labor and donations of materials to meet the needs of our aging facilities. This is not sustainable, as most Fair Grounds are now aged, and small repairs can no longer meet the needs of the facilities.

Please consider SB451 2023 to remove the cap on video lottery funds for our County Fair Grounds.

Thank You,  
Brinda Stanley, Chair  
Wallowa County Event Center and Fair Grounds