

Submitter: Lisa Grant

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1038

I am greatly in support of this bill because rodeos are still a huge part of the life-blood of our small rural community in Harney County. I am on the Harney County Fair Board and we currently have a grant to construct an events center on our grounds. This events center will be a large indoor arena, with seating and room to host multi-species livestock events. We hope to be able to expand this building to include an up to date kitchen facility and potentially some meeting rooms. However, it is highly unlikely that the amount we have received to date in grants will even cover the basic construction of the building. Additional funds would assist exponentially in completing this building and could be put directly toward the infrastructure needed to building the arena facilities within the building. We know that being in between Central Oregon and the Treasure Valley of Idaho, that rodeo events hosting in this new facility year round could bring a huge boost to our small community. If this funding cannot go toward new facilities, but only toward repairs of existing rodeo grounds we have much ahead of us in that department as well. We have a large outdoor arena with a large, wood grand stands that could use some attention. A new roof and siding on these stands would the historic and unique structure last another 50 years. This arena and grandstands is the current centerpiece of our grounds but funding hasn't allowed for its proper upkeep. I hope this testimony helps to show that this funding is greatly needed to maintain/repair/construct facilities that host events that drawn crowds and therefore income to our small community. Thank you.