



April 19, 2023

Subject: Support of SB5506

Dear Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

The Oregon State Fairgrounds & Expo Center (OSFEC) is an important asset for Oregon with hundreds of events held on the grounds each year. The venue is important to the tourism industry through the events and tradeshow it is capable of hosting. However, there are additional events that could be held at the OSFEC if the facilities were repaired and upgraded.

The Oregon State Fair serves as Oregon's showcase and engages residents from every corner of the state. Whether it's canning, sewing, baking, showing animals of all kinds...the State Fair is where Oregonians come to celebrate all that is Oregon.

The OSFEC has served as a critical location for services including OHA Medical Facilities; Oregon Department of Education and OSU mask storage; Santiam Canyon Wildfire Evacuee Center; Cold Weather Houseless Shelter; wildfire hazard waste storage and sorting area; and numerous Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Centers.

Travel Salem supports the OSFEC's request for funding to ensure this facility remains a viable asset for the diverse roles it plays serving Oregonians.

Thank you for your support!

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