



Josephine County Fairgrounds & Event Center

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4/21/23

Dear Co-Chair Senator Steiner, Representative Sanchez and members of the committee,

My name is Tamra Martin and I'm the Recreation Director for Josephine County which includes the management of our County's Fairgrounds. I attended the Road Show in Douglas County on 4/21/23 in hopes to speak with you regarding the important issue of funding for Fairgrounds throughout our State but did not have the opportunity to speak.

Not unique in our structure, Josephine County Fairgrounds is not supported through our local tax dollars or general fund. We earn our revenues through reservations, events and private business partnerships. While we operate like a small business we also provide the support and services for our local community in times of needs.

During the pandemic, the Fairgrounds was the only department in Josephine County forced to layoff staff, but while our revenue diminished with the closure of events, we were in full community support role. The Fairgrounds provided the space for emergency childcare for first responders and essential workers, covid testing and vaccination sites and outdoor food market and then the fires ravaged our state and the Fairgrounds once again were there to support of not only our community but our neighboring County. With limited resources and staff, everyone was stepping in to mow lawns, clean restrooms, provide security and sometimes just comfort scared fire victims.

But Fairgrounds also play another role in emergency planning support. If the time comes in the future where an event like Cascadia were to happen, the Fairgrounds would then again become the place to gather for local government, shelter, resources and reuniting with family members.

But with all that Fairgrounds do to support our communities through times of need, we also offer another unique opportunity for our citizens through economic development. Year round we offer entrepreneurs the ability to kick start their dreams without the traditional barriers of starting a business by creating an entry point for anyone succeed. Grower's Markets, vendor sales, community events and even a commercial co-op kitchen for bakers, and culinary dreamers to package their sauce and salsas. We take great pride in seeing the success of these young entrepreneurs as they realize their dreams.

I tell you all of this because Fairgrounds are no longer just about entertainment and our annual County Fairs, we have become safety nets for our communities in time of crisis and the launch pad for dreams and businesses. But with all that we do we lack the very basic of infrastructure needs like the proper plumbing, electrical support, lighting, internet to properly support our community and we need your help to make sure that we can answer the call.

Please support HB2938 for funding for emergency infrastructure for Josephine County, and HB2510 for stable funding for Fairgrounds throughout the State.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamera Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline for the first name.