

Submitter: Kathy Gover Shaw
On Behalf Of: Union County Fair Board
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

We did make the trip to Ontario for the Ways and Means Roadshow and unfortunately were not able to testify in person. Instead, here is what we would have testified to in person.

Thank you to the committee for making the trip to Ontario.

I am Kathy Gover-Shaw and I'm the Manager at the Union County Fairgrounds. I am here to ask for your support of House Bill 2635 to help fund the Union County Fairgrounds indoor plumbing project.

I would like to start off by thanking Senator Hansell and Representative Levy for supporting this bill.

A little history: 20 years ago, our septic system started to fail and over the next 10 years it completely failed.

After meeting with DEQ, the City of La Grande and engineers we found the septic system cannot be replaced due to the high water table levels in the area.

It was determined tapping into the City of La Grande's water and sewer system was our only option.

The reason for the high ask is because the fairgrounds lies on the other side of I-84 and the Grande Ronde River and we have to go over I-84 to hook into the city system.

The estimated project cost is \$3,009,000.

At this point we have dedicated the following funds to this project:

HB 5202 and HB 5202 from 2022.

Northwest Farm Credit Grant of \$75,000.

Union County ARPA funds of \$250,000.

This leaves us with a short fall of \$1,407,000.

If HB 2635 is approved, the City of La Grande will give us an additional \$250,000.

This City contribution is directly tied to receiving the funds from HB 2635.

The Union County Fairgrounds is used as the Emergency Evacuation site for the area. We also host events such as weddings, reunions, company and church picnics, concerts, training sessions, etc.

Without indoor plumbing our facility cannot function without bringing in portable restrooms and sanitation stations.

With evacuations there isn't enough time to coordinate the arrangements for these services. We need on-site, built-in facilities readily available to use.

Without indoor plumbing we miss out on renting our facility to more organizations because of the additional expense of bringing in the portable systems.

Once we complete this project it will open our facility up to more rental opportunities including the two and three day events that we are missing out on at this time.

Your support for House Bill 2635 is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
The Union County Fair Board and Manager