

Submitter: Katy Moore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

The Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center has served so many vital community needs throughout its more than 150 years, but perhaps no need has been greater than the last three years. Just since 2020, the OSFEC has served the public as an emergency medical clinic as a preemptive measure to help with COVID hospitalizations, and then hosted hundreds of people and animals who needed emergency shelter after the wildfires in September 2020. The site also served as a perfect location to keep our community healthy as a COVID vaccination clinic, with easy ingress, parking, and egress for thousands of visitors, and multiple indoor and outdoor facilities of varied sizes.

That's all aside from how much delight the Oregon State Fair brings to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, and the hundreds of public and private events that count on the OSFEC to interact with their customers, colleagues, family, friends, and fans.

Having 185 acres so centrally located to the bulk of Oregon's population is such a blessing, but some buildings truly do need updates and renovations to keep guests comfortable, both in times of fun and in times of great need. The quality of the facilities there provides an economic and community benefit to all Oregonians. These funds are well-deserved and will be well-used if given to the OSFEC.