

Submitter: Paul Anderes

On Behalf
Of: Union County

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5201

I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes. I am also a retired Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor of 32 years, 23 of those years at La Grande High School in Union County.

In both of those roles mentioned, I am in support of an investment in Union County Fairgrounds from Capital Construction.

As noted in my previous testimony, Union County Fairgrounds hosts a number of events other than the Union County Fair in August. (more than 23 distinct events) Our Fairgrounds is so much more than 1 week in the summer featuring youth livestock, funnel cakes and carnival rides that over 18,000 people attended in 2022. Our Fairgrounds is a go to space for community events all year long. The events have included:

Eastern Oregon Beer Fest

Celebrate La Grande

Grande Ronde Hospital Employee appreciation day

Eastern Oregon Music festival

Eastern Oregon Celtic Festival

Horse shows

Eastern Oregon University student groups host socials and dances

RV Camping spaces

Peewee livestock showmanship (Along with Over the hill Livestock showmanship)

Mutton Bustin'

Boarding livestock displaced by the 2020 wildfires in Western Oregon

Solar Power conference

Youth educational presentations

Historical society meetings

Community Fundraisers

Teen Dances

Talent Shows

Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation Summer Event

Holiday Bazaars

Truck shows

Oktoberfest

Youth Arts events

Motorcycle Rallies

Hosting Wildland fire camps

When our area had an early and severe Covid outbreak in June of 2020, Union County Fairgrounds was the site of our mass testing event.

As you can see it serves our community year round.

As commissioners we have increased funding in our budgets and through Federal Covid Relief money. These amount to band aids given the continuous cost increases and a cap on lottery proceeds supporting Fairgrounds.

We are trying to hold each and every one of these events without the most basic services A reliable supply of water and a functioning septic system.

We need support from the State of Oregon to continue this vital economic driver for our County.

Thank you,

Paul Anderes

Union County Commissioner