

Thank You Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane and
Members of the Committee

For the record, I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes I also serve as Co-Chair of Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA). EOCA consists of 15 members Counties East of the crest of the Cascades. Many EOCA members are in the room with you having made the trip to Salem to testify on this important topic. In the Written testimony is a letter from Eastern Oregon Counties Association signed by over 20 County Commissioners in support of SB780.

I am in full support of SB780.

Many years ago, I was one of those firefighters that slept in the dirt at Lake county Fair.

A unique use of the Union County Fairgrounds was an emergency testing facility for a very serious Covid outbreak we had in our County.

When times were tough the State of Oregon went to Fairgrounds for fiscal help. That was 17 years ago. In that time Oregon has seen many new programs and projects funded while Fairgrounds languished with a stagnant source of income. Fairground managers and volunteer boards saw more and more of their funding

eaten up by higher cost of goods, services and labor – simply put at times crushing inflation. It seems to be well past the time to thank Fairgrounds for their years of fiscal sacrifice for the State of Oregon and make them whole again. Please support SB780

Here is a list of some of the year round uses of the Union County Fairgrounds:

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

Thank you.

Paul Anderes,