

Submitter: Commissioner Kelly Simmelink
On Behalf Of: Jefferson County
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2136

Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 2136.

Fairgrounds have become an intragal part of local Emergency Response to disasters and Crisis. In Jefferson County we have hosted numerous fire camps, Public Health outreach operations and as a reunification center for parents and students due to a bomb threat in our school.

We are constantly looking for opportunities to increase the resiliency of our aging facility. During the bomb threat that sent nearly 800 students to our fairgrounds awaiting reunification with parents and guardians, the temperatures were below freezing. Hundreds of paniced parents awaited their students release in freezing temperatures.

We distinctly seek backup power generation, security fencing, HVAC improvements and proper lighting for our facility. This bill would allow us to prioritize our needs and engage with our State partners to increase the resiliency we able to provide our community members.

I encourage your support of this bill for all County Fairgrounds.

Thank You,
Kelly Simmelink
Jefferson County Commissioner