



Chief Joseph Days Rodeo, Inc.
401 North Main Street, P.O. Box 13, Joseph OR 97846
541-432-1015

Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Board
February 21, 2025

Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 771 – Funding for Rodeo Ground Improvements

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

On behalf of the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Board, we write to express our strong support for SB 771, the Oregon Community Rodeo Bill, which would provide much-needed funding for capital improvements to rodeo arenas and grounds across our state. Chief Joseph Days Rodeo, located in the small town of Joseph, Oregon, has been a cherished tradition for 78 years. Our rodeo is not just a local event—it is a vital economic driver for our community and a celebration of our Western heritage.

As a rodeo that owns its grounds, we are solely responsible for maintaining and making necessary improvements to our facilities to continue hosting this historic event. As Board President Terry Jones states, “Being a rodeo in a small town, we take full responsibility for maintaining and upgrading our arena, which has proudly hosted 78 rodeos. Unfortunately, as a small community at the end of the road, our event generates only so much income, and we simply do not have the funds to complete all the necessary improvements on our own.”

Chief Joseph Days Rodeo is the single largest event within a two-hour radius, drawing thousands of visitors each year. Our rodeo plays a crucial role in supporting local businesses, many of which rely on the revenue generated during this event to sustain them through the slower winter months. During rodeo week, restaurants, hotels, and local shops see a major economic boost, and many businesses depend on this revenue for their survival. Investing in our rodeo grounds means investing in the rural economy of Oregon.

Beyond its economic impact, Chief Joseph Days Rodeo directly supports local youth through scholarships. Our Ranch Rodeo has funded multiple scholarships, including trade school opportunities, ensuring that young Oregonians can pursue education and careers that sustain our

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rural way of life. The passage of SB 771 would allow us to continue these vital contributions while ensuring that future generations have a safe, well-maintained venue to compete and learn.

Additionally, our rodeo is powered by dedicated volunteers—local families and lifelong rodeo supporters who work year-round to ensure its success. Without proper funding for infrastructure improvements, these volunteers face increasing challenges in keeping the event safe, functional, and accessible for all.

SB 771 would be a game-changer for rodeos across Oregon, providing access to grants through Business Oregon that would allow us to invest in critical infrastructure, safety enhancements, and long-term sustainability. The passage of this bill would not only benefit our event but also support the countless volunteers, competitors, and small businesses that depend on the success of community rodeos statewide.

We strongly urge you to vote DO PASS on SB 771 and move it forward to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Investing in the future of Oregon's rodeo industry means investing in the rural economies, traditions, and people that make our state so unique.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Jones, President

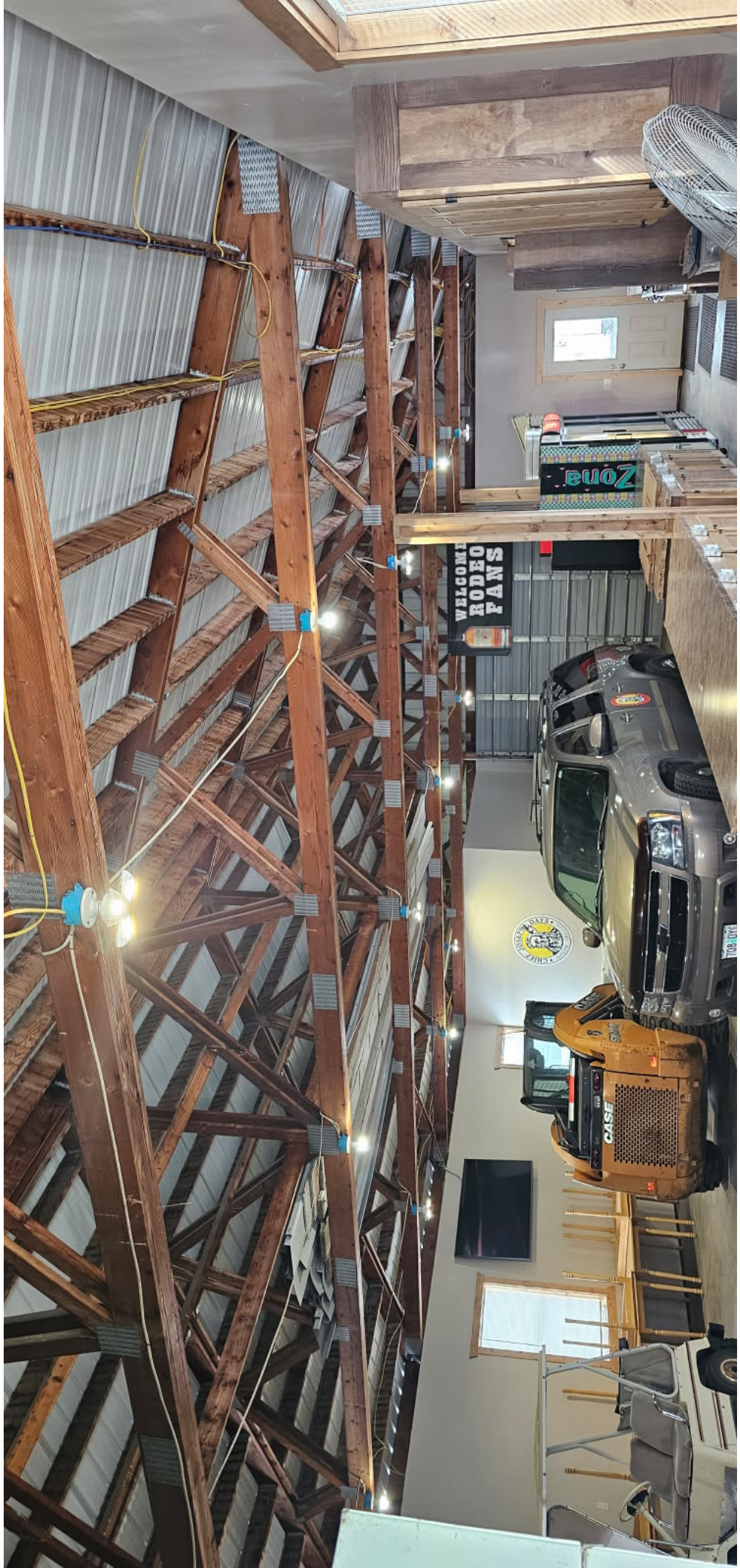
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