



February 24, 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 repairs

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

The Mission of the St. Paul Rodeo is to support our greater community and honor our western heritage by producing a world class rodeo. The St. Paul Rodeo Association is a 501 (c) (4) non-profit, made up 440 members, with 11 as the Board of Directors. Since 1935, the 4th of July Celebration that takes place in St. Paul, Oregon has supported and offered fundraising opportunities for various non-profits and community groups. The St. Paul Rodeo has a charitable impact of \$500,000 each year including donations to non-profits, awarding scholarships, and by partnering with several organizations that fundraise during the rodeo. This small farming town, population 425, hosts over 84,200 people during the 5-day rodeo and carnival. Our event promotes western heritage and encourages faith, family, and patriotism, which are integral to the rodeo tradition. The Rodeo would not thrive without our dedicated community of volunteers, making it a priority for the St. Paul Rodeo to give back to local schools, students, parishes, businesses, and other organizations.

The St. Paul Rodeo office and stadium are part of the St. Paul Historic District which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The office is a renovated home built in 1908, and the stadium grandstand was built primarily of wood in the 1940's. The St. Paul Rodeo Association manages the City-owned St. Paul Rodeo stadium and adjacent park as governed by a management agreement with the City of St. Paul. The St. Paul Rodeo pays the City for the use of the stadium and does not receive income from the City to manage the facilities. The stadium would not have any improvements made without the financial support of the rodeo. It is also used for St. Paul High School for football games and is a reunification site for local school districts and a relocation site for animals and people that may be impacted by disasters in the Willamette Valley or other parts of the State.

Support for SB 771 will provide an opportunity for our organization to access funding that will improve the security and safety of the facility and environment for the St. Paul Rodeo event and its patrons. In addition, the financial support will aid in maintaining the organization's ability to continue to support local non-profit organizations throughout the mid-Willamette Valley and continue its status as a reunification site.

Please Vote DO PASS to send SB 771 to the Joint Ways and Means Committee, supporting Oregon rodeos by providing grant funding for capital facility needs.

Sincerely,

Karen McKillip
General Manager, St. Paul Rodeo