

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair McClain, and Honorable Committee Members.

My Name is John McCloskey, Chairman of the Jefferson County Fair Board. I have served on our Fair Board from 2003-2007 and again from 2021 to present. In this timeframe I have witnessed small bits of funding come our way, but it seems like just enough to raise hope and spur ideas that always seem to be out of reach.

Our Fair Board is a volunteer working board that spends many hours each year trying to improve and maintain an aging facility, for our community to have a safe functioning place to gather and be proud of. Along with many Fair grounds throughout our State, our facilities are deteriorating faster than we can keep up. ADA upgrades and added security measures, such as fencing, cameras, and lighting are some of our top priorities. We lack the funding to move many of these projects forward.

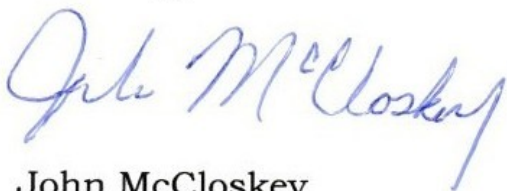
As in many Oregon communities our fairgrounds is a hub. In addition to the annual fair, the facility hosts many events, as well as providing a space for community safety. The Fair Grounds is a staging area for Red Cross, taking in livestock as well as people. A FEMA designated facility for disaster relief. It was the County mass vaccination staging area during the pandemic. It is often used by State and Federal agencies as a fire base camp. Most recently our 509 J school district used the grounds as a reunification point when evacuating the High School due to a bomb threat.

Your support of SB 780 is needed.

By removing the \$1.5 million dollar cap and returning to the 1% of lottery funding, the 36 Oregon Counties and the State Fairgrounds will have dependable, designated funding to keep modernizing grounds for future generations. All of these counties need to have a Fairgrounds that is a safe, accessible place for all to gather for fun and in the case of disaster.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



John McCloskey

Jefferson County Fair Board Chairman