

My name is Bart Platt. I am the Jefferson County Event Complex/Fairgrounds Manager. In case you are unaware, running a fairgrounds is more than a 365 day job. With hundreds of events, dozens of nonprofit organizations and city/county/state facilities requests...we truly are the hub that connects every one of our communities.

We are very creative in how we generate funds to keep our facilities afloat every year. From grant programs to sponsorships, we need every penny to keep our facility up and running for all the people in our community who depend on us. However, we never have enough money to make much needed improvements!

In addition to all these previously stated needs of us, we are also our community's emergency facilities. We are a staging area for Red Cross, taking in livestock and people in their times of need. We are a Federal Emergency Management Agency designated facility for disaster relief. During COVID, we were a mass vaccination staging area. Both State & Federal agencies use us as a Fire Base Camp. We had almost 5,000 people from all over the state utilize our facility during the Elk Lane Fire in August of 2024. Most recently our 509J School District used the grounds as a reunification point when evacuating the High School due to bomb threat.

Your support of HB 2304 is required if we are going to be able to be there for our communities when they need us!

If approved, removal of 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 our facilities available to our community for future generations. At our facility, we don't have enough indoor space for our community in the case of an emergency during the winter. We are not alone in this problem. With our own appropriate funding established, we can all navigate these concerns and truly be the safe haven all our communities are in need of!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bart Platt

Jefferson County Event Complex/Fairgrounds Manager