



Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2145

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2145, which removes outdated funding limitations for county fairgrounds and mandates the creation of a master plan for our future development. This legislation is not only an investment in our state's agricultural and community traditions but also a critical step toward strengthening Oregon's disaster preparedness and emergency response infrastructure.

County fairgrounds are often the first places communities turn to in times of crisis. When wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters strike, we provide shelter, space for emergency responders, and refuge for evacuated residents and their animals. However, many fairgrounds lack the resources to maintain and upgrade their facilities, which limits their ability to serve in these vital roles. HB 2145 removes the cap on the lottery proceeds allocated to the County Fair Account, allowing fairgrounds to receive a more sustainable level of funding that reflects the true needs of their communities.

Additionally, the bill ensures that these funds are used strategically by requiring the Oregon Business Development Department to develop a five-year and ten-year master plan for county fairground infrastructure. This type of forward-thinking planning will enable fairgrounds to make necessary upgrades in a way that strengthens their ability to serve as both cultural centers and emergency response hubs. The appropriation of \$250,000 for consultant services will provide fairground administrators with the expertise needed to assess and prioritize infrastructure improvements.

Oregon's fairgrounds are more than just places for summer festivals—they are crucial to community safety and resilience. By passing HB 2145, the Legislature will ensure that these spaces remain equipped to serve Oregonians in times of both joy and hardship. I urge your strong support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Crow', is positioned above the printed name.

Brian Crow, Executive Director
Clackamas County Fair and Event Center