



Josephine County Fairgrounds & Event Center
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Written Support for House Bill 2145

March 5, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today to request support of House Bill 2145, which removes funding limitations for Oregon's County Fairgrounds and mandates the creation of master plans for future development. This is a critical step in securing the future of Fairgrounds in our communities, ensuring that County Fairgrounds are prepared for future emergency response.

Our County Fairgrounds is the first call that our community makes in times of need. In fact, many times they are at our gate without ever calling knowing that we will be there to help them in their times of crisis. Fire evacuations, weather hazards like flooding and unimaginable times like COVID have strengthened the resolve for communities to have a place to turn to. However, most Fairgrounds, including ours, have been neglected due to lack of funds and now suffer from deferred maintenance and failing infrastructure. Josephine County Fairgrounds was purchased in 1927 and is approaching 100 years of service to our community. It will take critical planning and stabilized funding to create the spaces that our community needs that are safe, accessible and can support not just the current but future needs of our community.

Our County Fairgrounds are no longer used for just annual Fairs. They operate year-round and are central in all our community's safety plans. Please support our County Fairgrounds and HB 2145.

Sincerely,

Tamra Martin, Director

Josephine County Fairgrounds and Event Center