

Submitter: Katie Baltzor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2304

I am writing in support of HB 2304, which would provide much needed funding for our county fairgrounds. I have lived in Harney County for most of my life and our fairgrounds has been a large part of that for me, my family and our community. It is the hub of our county, hosting rodeos, 4-H events, weddings, funerals, banquets, concerts, demolition derbies, ropings & bronc ridings, Migratory Bird Festival, rodeo schools, youth roller skating, Red Ribbon Week bonfires, Native American PowWows, overnight campers in our RV park, farmer markets and the list goes on. The Fairgrounds is where we stage our large firecamps during all the wildfires we have incurred over the years. Last year, we had over 1500 firefighters camped for over 2 months at our fairgrounds. Our fairgrounds is our emergency center for our rural community.

With all the years of multiple uses our fairgrounds provides, the funding from the State has diminished and the infrastructure is in dire need of improvements. Our County Fairboard has stepped up and has been planning and implementing a new Event Center to meet our diverse needs. The passage of HB 2304, which removes the 1% cap of Oregon Lottery Funding, allows more dollars to support this endeavor.

I strongly urge you to support our local fairgrounds and pass HB 2304.