

Submitter: Katie Baltzor

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2145

I live in Harney County where our county fairgrounds is one of the most utilized facilities for diverse purposes. Over the years, we have seen our facilities deteriorate. HB 2145 would remove the cap of 1.5 million of Oregon Lottery funds to go to county fairgrounds. It would provide a full 1% of Oregon lottery dollars to be invested back into our communities, which in turn, would help our local economies. This bill requires the Oregon Business Development Department to create 5 and 10 year capital construction plans for each county fairgrounds. It also provides funding for a consultant to assist with these projects.

Our county fairgrounds is an emergency center for us, yet we do not have the capability to house even 1000 people indoors in the event of a winter crisis. During summers of wildfires, like last year, we had over 1500 firefighters camp at our fairgrounds for 2 months. Our existing plumbing has a difficult time keeping up during our largest event (our annual Fair & Rodeo).

Passage of this bill will allow our fairgrounds to continue to support 4-H activities, rodeos, dog shows, Native American PowWows, funerals, weddings, demolition derbies, farmer markets, concerts, youth roller skating and the many more activities . All of these activities support our local economy, as well as provide social and cultural activities in a rural part of our state.

I urge you to pass this bill and thank you for the opportunity to comment.