

Submitter: Joel Conder
On Behalf Of: Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2304

My name is Joel Conder and I have been a member of a county fair board for over 15 years as well as a current member of the Oregon State Fair Council. I have resided in Salem for over 55 years and have visited the Fairgrounds & Expo hundreds of times. I am writing today to strongly express my support for the passage of HB2304 which addresses how lottery money is allocated to county fairs. I believe a portion of these funds should be directed to the largest fairgrounds in the state, The Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center in Salem. The Expo has been used in the past as regional emergency center during the pandemic and wildfires. I believe it will used again and again in the near future as these type events continue to take place. As a person who served on a fair board for many years that used the Expo on an annual basis, I personally have seen the need to invest in the very large backlog of deferred maintenance the Expo has at at his time. This firsthand experience gives me a unique perspective on just how important this is our our community, and I urge passage of this bill. Passage of this bill would benefit so many members of our community, from ranchers & farmers to almost every walk of life in the mid Willamette valley. In conclusion I urge the committee to favorably consider House Bill 2304 and vote in favor of its passage. This legislation is so important in keeping not only the State Fair & Expo solvent, but all county fairgrounds throughout the state. Having a well maintained and proper functioning Expo grounds, will & shall make a tremendous difference in the lives of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Joel M Conder
Vice Chair, Oregon State Fair Council (2023- present)
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