



March 5, 2025

Representative Daniel Nguyen

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Support of HB 2304

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy.

We urge support for HB 2304 and the -1 amendments. This bill is important to keep the state fairgrounds, and our county fairgrounds, as community locations for recreation while providing critical emergency service infrastructure. Fairgrounds have served as wildfire relief stations, pandemic testing and vaccination sites, makeshift hospitals, and emergency shelter for both citizens and their animals.

Each summer the State Fair brings boosts our local economy through tourism and events supporting our local vendors and ancillary businesses. We support eliminating the cap, established 20 years ago, and fully fund the 1% of lotter funds to county fairs, including one-tenth of one percent of the net proceeds for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center.

Our fairgrounds are important to their communities and the funding in this bill will provide Oregonians with continued recreational opportunities and serve as emergency hubs to safeguard our citizenry. Please support HB 2304 -1.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

**Salem Area Chamber
of Commerce**

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VIP's Industries Inc.

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Chief Executive Officer

Tom Hoffert
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce