



## OFA Appreciative of HB 5002 County Fairs Funding

### Oregon Fairs start with Strongest GRB in history

The Oregon Fairs Association is very appreciative of the increase in funding for County Fairs in the Introduced version of HB 5002.

**Section 4 of HB 5002 allocates biennial lottery cash support for county fairs at \$5.744 million.** This is about \$1.9 million more than what current law would allow for with the adjusted cap of \$1.9 million per year (\$3.8 million per biennium). Overall, this is a 50% increase in cash support for county fairs over the 2023-25 biennium.

OFA believes that the \$5.7 million funding level is a “true up” with actual inflation since the \$1.53 million annual cap was put in place in the 2001-02 biennium.

There is a lot to celebrate with the Governor’s explicit acknowledgment of the funding needs of our fairgrounds. This is the best GRB that OFA has seen in its history.

As we move forward with our advocacy efforts for 2025, OFA want to point to the investments we believe are necessary for both county fairs and the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center, specifically **HB 2304**, the Fairgrounds Revitalization Act, which would:

- Eliminate the arbitrary \$1.9 million annual funding cap established 20 years ago and instead fully fund county fairs with 1% of lottery funds;
- Share 10% of these lottery funds to provide ongoing support for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center;
- Support an additional \$20.171 million to OSFEC for infrastructure improvements as a regional emergency and evacuee center;
- Fund a study and additional capital project improvements to state and county fairgrounds to ensure they can continue as economic, social, cultural, and educational hubs in our communities; and
- Provide a vehicle for county-specific fairgrounds projects such as the \$2.5 million for the Union County Fairground’s need for water infrastructure.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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