

Submitter: Whitney J Haddock

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2527

Written Testimony in Support of Appropriating Funds for Water and Sewer Improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds

Submitted by:

Whitney J. Haddock

4-H and FFA Member, Beef Cattle Exhibitor

Date: March 9, 2025

To: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Whitney J. Haddock, and I am a 4-H and FFA member in Union County. I raise beef cattle and am proud to be a fourth-generation user of the Union County Fairgrounds. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed appropriation of funds to the Union County Fair Association. These funds would be used for critical water and sewer improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds, which are essential for the continued success of our fairgrounds and the safety and comfort of everyone who uses the facilities.

As a 4-H and FFA member, participating in the Union County Fair is one of the highlights of my year. It's where I have the opportunity to showcase the cattle I've worked hard to raise, and it's a place where I can demonstrate the skills I've learned over the years. The fairgrounds have been a significant part of my family's history, as I am a fourth-generation exhibitor. However, the current water and sewer systems at the fairgrounds are outdated and inadequate for the growing number of participants and visitors, especially those of us who raise livestock.

Upgrading the water and sewer infrastructure is critical to ensuring that the fairgrounds remain a safe, functional, and accessible place for all exhibitors, families, and visitors. Modernized systems will provide better sanitation, prevent potential issues during events, and allow exhibitors like myself to focus on our livestock projects without worrying about unreliable facilities. Additionally, these improvements will allow the fairgrounds to continue to serve as an emergency shelter in times of crisis, which is crucial for our community.

The Union County Fairgrounds are not just important for youth like me, but also for the community as a whole. With updated infrastructure, we can host more events, attract more visitors, and contribute to the local economy. These improvements will also ensure that future generations, like mine, can continue to use the fairgrounds for years to come.

I respectfully urge you to support this funding so that the Union County Fairgrounds can continue to serve as a vital resource for our youth, our community, and our local economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Whitney J. Haddock

4-H and FFA Member, Beef Cattle Exhibitor