



Office of the President

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for House Bill 2527 – Union County Fairgrounds Infrastructure Improvements

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I write to you on behalf of Eastern Oregon University in strong support of House Bill 2527, which provides essential funding for water and sewer infrastructure improvements at the Union County Fairgrounds. This vital investment will strengthen the fairgrounds as a community asset that serves not only as a hub for regional events but also as a critical resource for our students, faculty, and staff.

The Union County Fairgrounds plays a significant role in our region's economy and cultural life. It serves as a premier event location, drawing thousands of visitors annually, and contributing to tourism and local business growth. At Eastern Oregon University, we recognize the value of having this versatile venue nearby, which creates opportunities for student engagement, academic programs, and community collaboration. Whether through academic conferences, student organization events, or workforce training initiatives, the fairgrounds remain an essential extension of our university's mission.

Additionally, the fairgrounds have the potential to serve as a key site in regional emergency management plans. Strengthening the infrastructure to support essential services during times of need is a proactive and crucial step in safeguarding our community's well-being. Investing in these improvements will enhance the fairgrounds' ability to meet both immediate and long-term needs for emergency preparedness.

Passing HB 2527 will help ensure the longevity and sustainability of the Union County Fairgrounds, benefiting not just Eastern Oregon University but the entire region. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and make this crucial investment in our community's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if additional information or support is needed.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ryan, Ph.D.
President
Eastern Oregon University