

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I encourage you to vote in support of HB 2145.

Removing the current limit on lottery funds allocated to our county fairgrounds and allowing up to the full 9/10 of 1 percent of lottery proceeds to be allocated to the fairgrounds will provide additional funding desperately needed to maintain these facilities without increasing taxes on Oregonians.

Within Yamhill County, our fairgrounds is a place for many community events. Our facilities are aging and in need of significant capital improvements. We are constantly looking for opportunities to raise funds to maintain the facilities while at the same time keeping the space affordable to the local community. In addition, the county fair is an important event for our youth as well as the local community. Whether it is a child displaying their art, sewing project or showing an animal, the fair experience is important. A well-maintained fairground makes that experience possible.

Beyond the annual fair, our country fairgrounds serves as a valuable resource for the local community – a greenhouse for our Master Gardener program, a place for the local 4-H dog club to meet and practice, an arena for youth horse shows or the local Sheriff's Posse to ride, markets and other events open to the public, as well as many private meetings and events.

Lastly, like so many other fairgrounds in Oregon, the Yamhill County Fairgrounds is also an emergency shelter. We have the capability and have hosted people, livestock, and pets during an emergency. Well maintained facilities will allow us to continue to serve that role when disaster strikes.

As a member of our County Fair Board, we face challenges trying to find the resources to maintain our facilities. We are constantly battling to keep the cost of using the facilities or attending the county fair reasonable for families while at the same time having the funds necessary to repair and maintain our facilities. Removing the limit on lottery funds allocated to county fairgrounds will provide us and the other fairgrounds in Oregon much needed resources so that we can continue to be a resource for our local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janet Lee Redmond
McMinnville, Oregon