



March 2, 2026

State of Oregon Legislature  
Senator Fred Girod, Senator Rob Nosse  
Co-Vice Chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem OR 97301

Re: *Support of Senate Bill 1601*

Dear Committee Members:

The Crook County Fair Board Chair urges your strong support for Senate Bill 1601. Senate Bill 1601 will eliminate an old funding cap put in place years ago and provide an additional investment of approximately \$250,000 per county per year. These much-needed funds will make sure our fairgrounds are ready for events and more importantly for emergency disaster response. Recently our County Fairgrounds and the state fair stepped up when our communities needed them the most. Through the global pandemic, wildfire relief efforts, and vaccination efforts, our fairgrounds were transformed overnight into testing centers, makeshift hospitals, shelters for thousands of people and animals. Please help us prepare for the future.

We encourage you to continue your commitment to County Fairgrounds by passing SB 1601 so we can make sure our fairgrounds are ready for the future.

Sincerely,

Gail Merritt  
Chairperson Crook County Fair Board