



Crook County

Mailing: 300 NE 3rd Street • Prineville, Oregon 97754

Physical: 300 NE 3rd Street, 3rd Floor • Prineville, Oregon 97754

Phone (541) 447-6555

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,

I am Susan Hermreck; Crook County Commissioner and I respectfully urge your strong support for Senate Bill 1601.

Senate Bill 1601 eliminates an outdated funding cap established years ago and provides an additional investment of approximately \$250,000 per county each year. These much-needed funds will help ensure that our fairgrounds remain prepared not only for community events, but more importantly, for emergency and disaster response.

In recent years, both the Crook County Fairgrounds and the Oregon State Fair stepped up when our communities needed them most. During the global pandemic, wildfire relief efforts, and statewide vaccination campaigns, fairgrounds across Oregon were transformed almost overnight into testing centers, temporary medical facilities, and shelters for thousands of people and animals.

County fairgrounds are critical infrastructure. They serve as gathering places in good times and lifelines in times of crisis. Investing in their readiness today ensures we are better prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

I respectfully encourage you to continue your commitment to Oregon's county fairgrounds by supporting and passing SB 1601. Together, we can ensure our fairgrounds are ready for the future.

Sincerely,

X 
Susan Hermreck
County Commissioner