JEFFERSON COUNTY

EVENT COMPLEX/FAIRGROUNDS

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Support for SB 1601 – Increased Funding for Oregon Fairgrounds

Dear Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **SB 1601**, which proposes essential funding increases for fairgrounds across the state. In particular, the **Jefferson County Event Complex** serves as a cornerstone of our local economy and community identity.

As a premier regional venue, the Complex generates significant economic activity by attracting visitors who support our local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, and tourism-related services. However, to maintain this momentum and ensure the safety and comfort of our guests, critical repairs and renovations are necessary.

The funding provided by **SB 1601** would allow us to:

- **Enhance Facility Utility:** Modernize infrastructure to support year-round programming and diverse event types.
- **Drive Economic Growth:** Increase annual attendance and create high-value opportunities for local vendors, community organizations, and regional promoters.
- **Expand Event Offerings:** Secure a wider array of concerts, rodeos, festivals, and conventions that deliver measurable fiscal benefits to Jefferson County.
- **Create Additional Emergency Capacity:** Increase spaces for emergency needs throughout the county (school evacuations, fire relief, etc).

We view this legislation as a strategic investment that will strengthen our county's competitive position for regional events while preserving vital youth programming and community traditions.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the lasting benefits this bill will provide to the Jefferson County Event Complex and our entire region. We respectfully urge your full support for the implementation of **SB 1601**.

Sincerely,

Bart Platt

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EVENT COMPLEX MANAGER

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