

Date: March 3, 2026  
To: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee  
From: Ron Rowan, Chairman, Baker County Fair  
Subject: **Written Testimony on SB 1601 – Section 24: County Fair Allocation**

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On behalf of the Baker County Fair, I am writing in strong support of **SB 160**.

The Baker County Fairgrounds is a year-round economic and cultural hub. Along with the annual fair, we host youth education programs, cultural festivals, trade shows, livestock events, craft and hobby shows, consumer expos, nonprofit fundraisers, and countless community gatherings. These activities strengthen our local economy, support small businesses, and provide educational and cultural enrichment for the residents of Baker County and the surrounding area.

The financial and social impact of the county fairgrounds is not unique to Baker County. The fairgrounds throughout the state serve their area in a like manner and in many cases are much larger and have a larger impact on their respective areas.

Funding these facilities has remained static for years and was never indexed to inflation. As a result, many fairgrounds are struggling to maintain aging and deteriorating infrastructure, threatening their ability to continue serving their communities effectively.

SB 1601 addresses a long-standing funding cap that no longer reflects the needs or economic realities of Oregon's fairgrounds. By removing this outdated cap, the bill will provide an estimated **\$165,000 in additional annual investment per county**, enabling fairgrounds to maintain critical infrastructure, continue essential community services, and remain prepared for future emergencies.

Please vote Yes on SB 1601 and support the fairgrounds in Oregon.

Thank you.