

Submitter: Joel Nickerson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

Joint Commission on Capital Construction,

I am writing to share my perspective regarding the proposed amendment to ORS 565.447 ("Section 24"). As someone involved in the operations and long-term planning of the Jackson County Fairgrounds, I value funding structures that help sustain essential community facilities and programs.

County fairs and fairgrounds serve important roles in economic development, agricultural education, emergency readiness, cultural events, and youth programs. Stable and predictable funding mechanisms help these facilities remain safe, functional, and accessible to the public.

At the Jackson County Fairgrounds specifically, additional resources would support a number of critical infrastructure and emergency-preparedness needs that have been deferred due to limited funding. Examples include:

- Modernizing water and sewer infrastructure
- Improving emergency communication capabilities
- Enhancing emergency shelter readiness
- Repairing or replacing aging animal pens
- Conducting essential building maintenance
- Addressing water-damage remediation
- Repainting facilities where coatings are more than 20 years old

These improvements directly support the fairgrounds' ability to serve the community year-round, both for events and for emergency response when needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information about the needs and conditions at our facilities.

I ask you to vote yes on the proposed amendment to ORS 565.447 ("Section 24)

Thank you,

Joel Nickerson
Jackson County Fair Board Member