

LD 2096 January 27, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee. We are Tammy Ramsdell, President of the Washington County Fair, and Lynn Rutledge, Treasurer.

We write in opposition to LD 2096 because of the crushing impact it will have on our fair.

First, we are a two-day fair, and to extend to a three-day fair would be very difficult if not impossible. We have only a small amount of infrastructure and would need to rent tents, sound systems, portable toilets and more for an additional amount of time. We would have trouble enlisting more volunteers for a third day. Even our vendors would resist coming for another day.

Second, because we are a young fair (now in our fourth year as a licensed fair, though there was a fair with harness racing many years ago), we are doing our best to build up our fair and increase our offerings each year. Thus far, we have not been able to field a competition, but we do show farm animals for display and education. We have many demonstrations: harness racing, scything, blacksmithing, flower arranging and wreath making, apple cider pressing, our local sheriff's K-9 unit -- all of which are very popular. We are unable see how we can set up three livestock/poultry and three youth competitions this year. However, we are fortunate to have an active 4-H presence with displays and activities for youth.

We work really hard to make our fair a weekend in which families and people of all ages can come together, learn about our agricultural heritage, see some farm animals, chase a piglet and have fun. If our fair did not exist, people in Washington County would be forced to drive more than two hours to attend an agricultural fair.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Tammy Ramsdell, President
Lynn Rutledge, Treasurer