

March 23, 2025

Sam Twedt
President of Griggs County 4-H Council

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

This is Sam Twedt, President of the Griggs County 4-H Council. All Griggs County 4-H Council officers and Past President, Matt Haugen are in support of HB1591.

In the 2023 to 2024 4-H year, the Griggs County 4-H membership consisted of 11 Cloverbud 4-H members, 53 regular 4-H club members, and 32 4-H Archery Special Interest Group members. This very active and motivated group exhibited 30 additional static exhibits and nine additional animal exhibits compared to the previous 4-H year. There were and total of 29 beef animal exhibits last year making the large livestock barn so full of animals the goats and sheep exhibits had to be placed under a tent outside of the building.

The average age of Griggs County 4-H members showing animals and static exhibits last year was approximately 11 years old, meaning there are many more years 4-H members will be entering a greater number of exhibits creating additional lack of space problems in the future.

Due to the increase in 4-H exhibits at the Griggs County Fair, I already mentioned all goat and sheep exhibits must be housed under a tent. With the lack of space for animal exhibits and regulations on safely exhibit poultry at the fair, we have been unable to allow poultry exhibits to stay at the fairgrounds during the Griggs County Fair for the past two years. Another concern of the Griggs County 4-H Council is the lack of a large indoor animal show arena. Sheep, goat, swine, dairy, and beef exhibits must be shown outside in the hot sun and potential for rainfall interfering with the animal shows. An indoor animal show arena would provide greater safety to 4-H members and parents, spectators, and the animals.

The Griggs County Fair Association has discussed the construction of a new multi-purpose building to help alleviate these space issues for 4-H members during the fair, but the Fair Association has lacked the funds to construct any new buildings.

There is also interest in expanding the Griggs County 4-H Shooting Sports program beyond 4-H archery, however there is no longer a suitable location in Griggs County to allow 4-H members to practice shooting sports indoors leading to another problem for the Griggs County 4-H program.

The Griggs County Fair Association is interested in constructing a new multi-purpose building providing more space for 4-H animal and static exhibits, additional fair association activities, a large wedding and meeting venue for the county, space for the Griggs County 4-H Shooting Sports program, Griggs County Central School

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), an indoor shooting practice location for the Griggs County Wildlife Club, and many other community-wide activities throughout the year. However, the Griggs County Fair Association currently does not have sufficient funds to complete this construction project. The money from HB 1591 will significantly assist in the construction of a new multi-purpose building benefiting many Griggs County citizens,

We also request the funding match be less than 1:1 making it easier to obtain the entire \$100,000 grant without securing \$100,000 of local money.

The Griggs County 4-H Council is very appreciative of the creation of HB1591 and fully supports the passage of this bill to help support the Griggs County Fair Association, Griggs County 4-H program, and Griggs County citizens. Please vote yes for HB1591.

Sincerely,

Sam Twedt
Griggs County 4-H Council President

Letter submitted with support of Carolyn Abraham, Vice President, Stephanie Ramsey, Secretary, Jessica Haugen, Treasurer, and Matt Haugen, Past President