

March 23, 2025

Stephanie Johnson
President of Griggs County Fair Association

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

This is Stephanie Johnson, President of the Griggs County Fair Association. All officers and the remaining Griggs County Fair Association members are in support of HB1591.

Over the last 5 years, the Griggs County Fair Association has been considering a major building expansion, which later was determined not to be worth the money and later discussions of construction of a new building, but the Griggs County Fair Association does not have enough money to construct the necessary building.

The Griggs County Fair Association has desired a building expansion and later a new building construction due to the lack of space during the county fair and offering a place for community activities throughout the year.

The Griggs County 4-H program continues to increase membership leading to increasing animal and static exhibits causing a lack of space for all of the entries. All goat and sheep exhibits now must be placed under a tent during the fair and due to the restrictions on exhibiting poultry at the fair requiring additional space for poultry exhibits, poultry exhibits have not been housed at the fairgrounds for the past two years.

In 2024, the Griggs County Fair Association was forced to purchase two new tents to provide protection for new events during the 2024 Griggs County Fair and the need for additional space for previous events. The Griggs County Fair Board did not want to purchase these tents, but due to the lack of funds to begin construction of a more advanced multi-purpose building, the fair association was forced to purchase these tents.

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,