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Dear House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Amilia Lillehaugen, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1591, which seeks to provide grant funding to 4-H fair board associations for much-needed building repairs and renovations. As an active 4-H member, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that 4-H programs have on young people and their communities, and I believe this bill is essential to ensuring the continued success of this vital organization.

4-H has been a cornerstone of my personal growth and development. Through its programs, I have gained valuable leadership skills, learned the importance of community service, and developed confidence that will serve me for the rest of my life. 4-H provides a safe and supportive environment where young people like me can explore our interests, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to the betterment of our communities.

However, many of the facilities that host 4-H programs are in desperate need of repair and modernization. These spaces are more than just buildings—they are hubs of learning, collaboration, and innovation. When facilities are outdated or unsafe, it limits the opportunities for 4-H members to thrive. For example, I have personally experienced challenges with aging infrastructure in my local 4-H building, from structural issues that threaten the continuation of our local program, to inadequate heating in the winter, outdated facilities and technology that makes it difficult to fully participate in educational programs. Addressing these issues would not only enhance the experience for current members but also attract new participants and expand the reach of 4-H.

Investing in 4-H facilities is an investment in the future of our communities. The grant money proposed in this bill would empower 4-H fair board associations to make necessary repairs and upgrades, ensuring that these spaces remain functional and welcoming for generations to come. It would also demonstrate your commitment to supporting youth development and fostering strong, resilient communities.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1591 and to advocate for its passage. By doing so, you will be making a lasting difference in the lives of countless young people and helping to sustain a program that has positively impacted me and so many others. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amilia Lillehaugen