

Dear Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of the Walsh County Commissioners, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1591, which seeks to provide grant funding to 4-H boards for much-needed building repairs and renovations. The Walsh County Commission has been a steadfast supporter of our county fair over the years, recognizing its vital role in youth development, community engagement, and local economic impact.

Currently, we are facing significant financial challenges in maintaining and improving our fair building. The estimated cost for necessary building repairs is between \$1.5 million and \$2 million. These repairs are critical to ensuring the safety, accessibility, and continued success of the fair and the programs it supports. However, our ability to fund these large-scale improvements is limited. At present, we are budgeting only .54 mills for the support of the Walsh County Fair, which is insufficient to cover the growing infrastructure needs.

The passage of HB 1591 would provide essential funding to address these challenges, ensuring that our 4-H & FFA programs and county fair remain strong, vibrant, and accessible for future generations. Investing in these facilities is not just about maintenance, it is about sustaining a tradition that fosters youth leadership, agricultural education, and community spirit.

We strongly urge you to vote in favor of HB 1591 and to advocate for its passage. By doing so, you will be supporting an invaluable program that has a lasting impact on the youth and residents of Walsh County. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Walsh County Commissioners