

Sample Legislative Letter

Date

The Honorable <<Insert Full Legislator's Name>>
California State <<Senate or Assembly>>
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear <<Senator or Assembly Member>> Name,

As community members of the 37th DAA – the Santa Barbara County Fair, we write to urge your support for the California Fairs Network as you deliberate the state budget in the upcoming weeks.

California's re-opening plan indicates that mass gatherings like sporting events, county fairs, or concerts aren't going to happen any time soon. Fairgrounds are self-funded, and this State enforced closure has put all California Fairgrounds in jeopardy. This is one of 76 fairgrounds representing all 58 counties in the state serving many millions of people each year.

Fairgrounds are the heartbeat of their community, generating non-profit and community benefits and promoting a quality of life serving as gathering spots, recreation facilities, and learning centers. Fairgrounds generate more than 25,000 jobs and more than \$3 billion in annual economic impact while contributing over \$127 million of tax revenue to local and state government in California.

In addition, Fairgrounds are an essential part of the infrastructure necessary for the state to effectively respond in natural disasters and emergencies, including wildfires, floods, and pandemics. Numerous California fairgrounds are currently serving as coronavirus testing centers, command centers for the Office of Emergency Services, or homeless shelters to help the state's effort to deal with the pandemic.

To date, nearly half of California fairs have canceled, postponed, or drastically altered the annual fair, and more are expected to make that decision in the coming weeks. Educational, entertainment, and family events that are important to the communities we serve, like weddings, family reunions, trade shows, equestrian events, dog shows, quinceañeras, stand down events for veterans, non-profit fundraisers, learning center activities, and other community events have also been canceled, postponed, or closed.

We respectfully request your help during these challenging times by appropriating funds in the 2020-21 Budget as emergency assistance to the network of California fairs. Without this support, our fairgrounds and many others will close, resulting in the State being responsible for the employees, the insurance, and property. California's fairgrounds have always been there to add to the quality of life and assist the citizens of this great state. We are very optimistic about the future of fairs and the strength of California's fair network. Now is the time to provide emergency funding and preserve the legacy of the state's fairgrounds for future generations to come.

Sincerely,