

<<Insert Date>>

The Honorable <<Insert Full Senator Name>>
<<State>> State Senate
State Capitol
<<State, City, Zip>>

The Honorable <<Insert Asmb Mbr Name>>
<<State>> State Assembly
State Capitol
<<State, City, Zip>>

RE: Emergency Funding for the <<State>> Fairs Network

Dear Senator <<insert last name>> and Assembly Member <<insert last name>>:

As Board Members of the <<Insert DAA/Fair Name>> we write to urge your support for the <<State>> Fairs Network as you deliberate the state budget in the upcoming weeks.

<<Insert Information relating to your states' COVID-19 response>> This could be months away or longer, which means that mass gatherings like sporting events, fairs, or concerts aren't going to happen any time soon. Fairgrounds are self-funded and the aforementioned governmental actions will put all <<State>> Fairgrounds in jeopardy.

We are one of <<Insert # of Fairgrounds in State>> Fairgrounds representing all <<Insert # of counties in state>> counties in the state serving more than <<# of Fairgrounds Attendees>> that visited fairgrounds last year. Fairgrounds are often the heartbeat of their community generating over <<\$ generated >> in non-profit and community benefits, and promoting a quality of life serving as gathering spots, recreation facilities, and learning centers. Fairgrounds preserve <<# of jobs provided by fairgrounds in your state>> jobs and generate more than <<\$ generated at fairgrounds in your state>> in annual economic impact while contributing over <<amount of tax revenue generated at fairgrounds in your state>> in tax revenue to local and state government.

In addition, Fairgrounds are an essential part of the infrastructure necessary for the state to effectively respond in natural disasters and emergencies. During wildfires, Fairgrounds stage emergency vehicles and fire equipment, shelter displaced residents and animals, and generally support the community efforts to cope with each emergency. As an example, several 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 myriad of issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. <<State>> Fairgrounds receive no revenue for providing these necessary services.

To date as a result of the stay-at-home order and response to Covid-19, more than <<# of Fairs that have canceled in your state>> 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, seasonal trade shows, equestrian events, dog shows, quinceañeras, stand down events for veterans, non-profit organization fundraisers, learning center activities, and other community events have also been canceled, postponed, or closed. The financial hardship is not only felt by our fairs and employees but also by our service members and all the local businesses that rely on our Fairgrounds and the Network of California Fairs to survive.

We respectfully request your help during these unprecedented challenging times by appropriating \$300 million in the 2020-21 Budget as emergency assistance to the Network of <<State>> Fairs. Without this level of support, many fairs will close resulting in the State being responsible for our employees

salaries and health benefits, general liability and workers' compensation insurance, unfunded pension liabilities, risk pool service fees, property insurance, and the actual disposition of the fairground property.

Here to Help! The Network of <<State>> Fairgrounds has 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 the Network and its partners. Now is the time to provide emergency funding and preserve the legacy of the state's Fairgrounds for future generations to come.

We look forward to working with you on this urgent matter and welcome the opportunity to talk with you in the near future. Thank you for your continued support of <<Insert Name of Fair>>.

Sincerely,

<<Sign>>

<<Insert Printed Name>>

Cc: Western Fairs Association