



Ways and Means

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee

Senator Rick Billinger, Chair

Re: SB 1

Ed Berger, Interim General Manager Kansas State Fair

Senate Bill 1 is enabling legislation that would allow the Kansas State Fair Board to utilize funds in the Capital Improvement Fund for operations. The cancellation of the 2020 Kansas State Fair resulted in a loss of approximately 90 percent of its revenue. The cancellation of other events has caused the loss of another 5 percent of the Fair's revenue.

Both of the operating funds of the Kansas State Fair Board, the Fee Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund, have seen staggering decreases over the past year. Additionally, flexibility between the two accounts would assist the Kansas State Fair Board in responding to cash flow needs. It is also of note that funds have been statutorily transferred from the State Fair Fee Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund in prior years. This legislation would simply allow those same funds to be moved back to their fund of origin if necessary to cover non capital improvement expenditures.

If the Fair were not in a precarious position fiscally, the use of these funds for anything other than capital improvements would not be considered. The capital needs of the Fair are significant. There is a sunset on the bill of June 30, 2022.

Respectfully,
Ed Berger
Interim General Manager
Kansas State Fair