March 3, 2021

Office of Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

2021 will be the 80th anniversary of the Sisters Rodeo. The rodeo has been a fixture in Deschutes County for all 80 years, and the importance of the event from both a community and economic perspective cannot be underestimated.

This event has a $600,000 economic impact on our lodging sector and multiplier factors include food, shopping, and other recreational opportunities while here visiting for the rodeo, making the rodeo’s impact on Sisters in the millions of dollars. For a small rural community, this event helps us to leverage local dollars and helps Sisters remain a viable community.

The Sisters Rodeo is an outdoor ticketed event, with assigned seating which allows us to control the crowd safely given its location on private grounds. The Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association has a strict safety plan in place for their judges and contestants covered underneath a Covid-19 Code of Conduct national policy.

In addition, in consultation with the County’s Environmental Health staff, the rodeo will require everyone within the Rodeo complex to wear a mask, distancing protocols would be in place and sanitizing stations will be readily available. In addition, during the Rodeo audio and video presentations will be played to further encourage fans to comply with all safety rules and regulations. To further ensure the safety of our guests we will forgo the Rodeo Parade and standing room only ticket sales.

It is our understanding that the OLCC will not issue a permit due to the size of the event. Without alcohol sales, our sponsors, Coors and Crown Royal would make it impossible for us to have the event.

We ask that OLCC issue a provisional permit in this case. If outdoor gathering parameters have not been relaxed by June such that the rodeo can host enough guests for the event to remain viable, the rodeo will likely be cancelled and the OLCC permit becomes a moot point.

As you may know, time is of the essence. Depending on the answer from your office, the organizers would like to notify the community, the athletes and contractors by April 1st whether or not we are having our rodeo. On behalf of the Deschutes County community, we appreciate your consideration.

Warm Regards,

DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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