

SENATE RESOLUTION
8606

By Senators Schoesler and Dammeier

1 WHEREAS, The Washington legislature supports 66 agricultural
2 fairs across the state through allocations to the Fair Fund, and
3 events at fairgrounds throughout Washington attract close to 8
4 million people annually; and

5 WHEREAS, Fairs help educate Washington children through
6 cooperation with local schools, providing young people with
7 opportunities to learn where their food comes from, and other aspects
8 of agriculture and farm life that enhance classroom teaching in
9 science, math, social studies, reading, and art and support the
10 state's Essential Academic Learning Requirements; and

11 WHEREAS, Displays, demonstrations, and special events at fairs
12 and fairgrounds educate the public, offering many their first
13 opportunity to see piglets and calves nursing, chicks hatching, and
14 examples of local crops, and introducing people to the benefits of
15 farm life and the importance of agriculture, which is Washington's
16 largest employer; and

17 WHEREAS, Fairs provide members of 4-H and Future Farmers of
18 America and other young people with opportunities to learn and
19 demonstrate skills related to management, accounting, economics,
20 public speaking, and more, with research showing this experience
21 leads to better grades, greater interest in pursuing higher
22 education, less inclination toward risky behaviors, and stronger
23 family and community participation; and

24 WHEREAS, Fairs and activities at fairgrounds are sources of free
25 entertainment and free youth activities, which are particularly
26 important during difficult economic times, when 4-H enrollment grows
27 as parents look for positive activities for their children; and

28 WHEREAS, Fairs support communities, as a walk along any midway
29 confirms, with school organizations, churches, civic groups, and
30 others operating food booths, dunk tanks, and other fund-raisers in
31 support of everything from college scholarships to holiday food
32 baskets; and

1 WHEREAS, Fairgrounds also serve as important venues for
2 youth activities, community-related events, and cultural and
3 other activities;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
5 Senate acknowledge the high value of fairs and fairgrounds,
6 which collectively represent the state's largest classroom,
7 filled with lifelong learning opportunities for the people of
8 Washington; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
10 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
11 Washington State Fairs Association.

12 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
13 do hereby certify that this is a true and
14 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8606,
15 adopted by the Senate
16 January 29, 2015

17 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
18 Secretary of the Senate