

March 24, 2021

Dear Chairman Witt and Committee Members

Please accept this written testimony in support of House Bill 3173. When I evacuated due to wildfires my dog and I were able to stay with a friend in Depoe Bay, but my horse needed a safe place to go. Thank goodness there were fairgrounds throughout Oregon that sheltered my horse and countless other animals and livestock during the fires. I volunteered at the fairgrounds in Newport to care for the horses during evacuation, and noticed a need for improvement throughout the facility. Lighting, electrical, plumbing, and restroom facilities were all in need of updating, though clearly excellent care and maintenance kept them fairly functional well past their normal life expectancy.

At the moment, the Lincoln County Fairgrounds are being used for vaccination clinics. During times of crisis, such as fires, tsunamis and earthquakes, the fairgrounds become a gathering place, shelter, and a communication hub. Funding that reflects the essential nature of the fairgrounds and provides for maintenance and improvements is sorely needed.

Please vote YES on House Bill 3173.

Thank you,  
Lee Erickson  
Neotsu, Lincoln County