



March 23, 2023

RE: HB 2948 support testimony

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans.

My name is Tina Andersen and I am the Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center Manager. I'm writing you today on behalf of our fairgrounds needs as an emergency evacuation center for both animals and people.

During the 2020 wildfires we took in 75 RV's with families and another dozen tents with families along with 400 animals. We not only housed them but provided services for them to get what they needed to move forward after tragically losing their homes. Our Main building became a donation site so that anyone affected by the wildfires, whether they were staying with us or not could come get everything from a tooth brush to food supplies. Our local restaurants come in and provided meals with the donations of fresh food for everyone staying here every day for 3 weeks.

Our facility was built in 1952, the electrical system is from 1952 and we really struggled to keep up with the demand on our facility. We have a backup generator in case the power is out, it is big enough to service 2 of our buildings but because we need an electrical update it is currently only servicing part of the Main Building. Funds to update the electrical would provide showers during a power outage and more space in our Building B to house people if necessary. This is just one of many facility projects that need to be done in order to provide services during an emergency.

We are also in a unique position that we are able to land helicopters on our property , so if the bridge is out of commission, Polk County could still get supplies

Please consider what HB 2948 will do for not just our facility, but fairgrounds across the State for Emergency Management.

Thank you for your time

Tina Andersen

*Tina R Andersen*