

Submitter: Matt Hill

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2948

I serve on the Douglas County Fair Board and support this legislation. HB 2948 would create a \$20 million grant fund within the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for improvement of fairgrounds that are used as emergency evacuation sites. The funds would be used to construct or improve fairground infrastructure that is essential for emergency needs, including power, water, and sewer infrastructure.

I personally know the need to emergency staging and relocation in response to wildfires and other disasters in Douglas County. During the 2020 Archie Creek Fire, the Douglas County Fairgrounds was used in various capacities to respond to the fire, at a safe distance away from the fire event. This included evacuees, transportation of livestock and other animals, as well as daily meetings of federal/state/county fire "cooperators" who coordinated fire suppression strategy on a daily basis.

It is absolutely critical to have this infrastructure available given the expected increase in wildfire activity and intensity in Southern Oregon for decades to come.