

Submitter: Megan Cormack

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2948

As an equine veterinary professional, I have witnessed the value of local fairgrounds as equine evacuation sites. During the 2020 Estacada Wildfires, nearly 60% of our client base evacuated their horses one or more times- many of them to local fairgrounds. Without the Canby and Clark Co fairgrounds specifically, many of our local horse owners would have had no safe place to evacuate to with their animals. The availability of local fairgrounds as an evacuation site also allowed local veterinarians to monitor many evacuated horses in one location- allowing us to more evenly distribute our services among several local practices to share the load of emergencies. Local fairgrounds are more appropriately set up to safely house many horses in one place and we saw fewer injuries among the horses that were being housed at local fairgrounds, versus the horses that were turned out in unfamiliar private pastures when evacuated. As a horse owner myself, local fairgrounds are an invaluable resource during natural disasters and times of emergency. As the instance of natural disasters becomes an increasing part of our lives as horse owners, I very much support the use of grants to improve our local fairgrounds for use as emergency evacuation sites. Thank you.