

Submitter: Scott Hege

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2948

March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Graybar, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Tran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Scott Hege and I am a commissioner for Wasco County. I am submitting testimony as myself, not on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. I am in support of HB2948 to provide much-needed funds to better prepare our fairgrounds to serve our county during emergencies.

The Wasco County fairgrounds are being used on a much more frequent basis for a variety of emergency uses, most often for the establishment of fire camps for wildland fires in the region. I would expect that this use will be ongoing as will other emergency uses in the future.

Any response to a Cascadia earthquake event will likely need numerous locations to deal with people that are displaced as a result of this potential emergency event. I would expect our fairgrounds to serve as an emergency evacuation site, Red Cross certified shelter and supply storage site and a distribution center for donated supplies during emergencies.

Our fairgrounds are in significant need of investment to provide the infrastructure and facilities to serve in the capacity as identified above as well as any other emergency needs. This will take funding and a plan of action. I urge you to support HB 2948 to increase the ability of our county to provide emergency space and take care of our citizens during emergencies.

Regards,

Scott C. Hege
Wasco County Commissioner