

Submitter: Neila Whitney

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2948

When the Molalla/Wilhoit fire came toward our farm in September 2020, we had to evacuate. I called the Canby Fairgrounds. They were full. No stalls available. No space. I explained I had 2 horses and a donkey. I said I was prepared, and could set up a temporary electric corral for my animals. The Canby Fairgrounds staff said it was ok to come there, they would "make space somehow" for me. The Canby Fairgrounds is the "go to" place during disasters. It needs funding to maintain its buildings and facilities. I had to evacuate from two different other sites during the fires. No one knew where the fires were coming from. We were scared. We ended up having the Butte Creek fire coming toward us also. Two fires. Black smoke. Blood red dark skies. Terrifying! And the one fire came to within 300 yards from our house. Only the road to stop it. My panicky thoughts were to call a friend on the Clackamas County Mounted Police. She directed me to the county Fairgrounds for evacuation help.

Please approve funds to maintain Oregon Fairgrounds for this very reason.
Thank you.