

Submitter: Patricia Eisenberg

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2948

My husband and I along with our cat and two horses had to evacuate from our home on 6 acres in Jackson County, Oregon during the Almeda fire. The drive to the Jackson County Fair grounds which would usually take us about 15 minutes took us over an hour. Thankfully there were two stalls still available for our horses when we arrived at the Fairgrounds. Others were not so fortunate and either had to drive up to the Josephine County Fairgrounds or find private places that had room for their animals. The spots for people to stay in their RV or even in their car or truck also filled up quickly. We were unable to find a hotel anywhere closer than Redding or Roseburg. I am certain others also had this experience. Fortunately for us, some generous friends offered to take us and our cat in. The Fairground staff and volunteers really did a wonderful job coordinating efforts in caring for people, pets and livestock. For future evacuations some portable corrals to set up quickly would be handy. Also additional spots for those who have RV's would be helpful. I hope to never go through evacuating again, but am glad the Fairgrounds are there for our community if the need arises. Planning and preparing and providing the finances needed for future evacuations is essential. Thank you, Pat Eisenberg