

**TRACY CRAMER**  
State Representative  
House District 22



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 22, 2023

RE: Testimony Supporting SB 894

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 894.

Because of COVID shutdowns, the Oregon State Fair and Expo Center (OSFEC) lost an estimated \$6 million and laid off almost all its employees. But during that time, OSFEC was called upon numerous times to assist in situations of state importance. Here are just a few examples of how OSFEC stepped up to serve Oregon in the past few years:

- OHA used the facility to set up overflow hospital beds for COVID.
- Oregon Department of Agriculture used the facility to distribute masks and hand sanitizer to farmers.
- Marion County Emergency Management used the facility for evacuees of the Santiam Canyon wildfires of 2020 – About 2,000 livestock were housed, fed, and watered during that time.
- The American Red Cross used the facility for wildfire evacuations. Approximately 1,200 people were housed and fed on the grounds. Nearly \$100,000 in costs incurred by the fairgrounds has yet to be paid.
- Salem Health and Marion County Health and Human Services held COVID testing and vaccination clinics.

This unprecedented need revealed that OSFEC does not have what is required to maintain an efficient, fully operational Regional Emergency and Evacuee Center. SB 894 would provide funding for them to prepare for future emergency needs of our community to ensure fire, life, and safety needs are met.

I urge you to support SB 894. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

Tracy Cramer  
Oregon State Representative  
House District 22