

Submitter: Jesse Ott

On Behalf Of: Jesse Ott

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

Measure: HB2948

Good Morning,

I am writing today to voice my support for House Bill 2948. I manage the Benton County Fairgrounds and emergency management has become a big part of what we do. We were the livestock evacuation site during the 2020 fires. We took in hundreds of animals that had nowhere else to go when the fires hit our neighboring counties. We have been the cold and hot weather shelter sites during whether emergencies. We hosted emergency housing camps for those experiencing homelessness. We hosted mass vaccine clinics. We provide the training facility for our FEMA training program. Fairgrounds have a natural synergy with emergency management as we have facilities and resources to help out in a time of need, but we receive little to no funding for these emergency efforts. A grant fund to help support improvements that will support emergency management is the right thing to do and we are in full support.

Thank you

Jesse Ott

Deputy Director of Benton County Natural Areas Parks and Events.