



Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141

Phone: 503-842-3403

Erin D. Skaar, Chair

March 23, 2023

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

My name is Erin Skaar and I am the Chair of the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners. I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of HB2948 to provide much needed funds to better prepare our Fair Grounds to serve our county during emergencies. As the county with the most declared emergencies in almost any given year, this funding is very important to us.

The Tillamook County Fairgrounds has been used in the past for all levels of emergencies no matter what the cause or possibility of payment; health & safety concerns (COVID testing, vaccinations and quarantine), wildfire, flooding, structure fires, power outages, and weather events.

The Fairgrounds are a designated Tillamook County emergency evacuation site, Red Cross certified shelter and supply storage site, Tillamook School District emergency evacuation and reunification site, Oregon Department of Forestry base camp site, South Fork correctional facility base camp site, and a distribution center for donated supplies during emergencies.

There are many potential projects including the repair or replacement of the failing roof system in the convention center and auditorium buildings, repair specific structurally damaged areas in the convention center, as well as update the heating/cooling components for those connected buildings. The roof is a necessary temporary fix and it will allow us time to prepare a design and funding plan necessary to build a new convention/event center which could contain additional emergency operations and health & safety storage or operational space.

Additionally, the fund could be used for the potential expansion of the 4H dorm/hall and the installation of additional restrooms. This would allow for larger capacity occupancy in the current evacuation space with adequate accessible restrooms and will have the potential to double the current occupancy rating.

There are many emergency facilities needs at the Fairgrounds including but not limited to the ones mentioned above. All it takes is funding and a plan of action. I urge you to support HB 2948 to increase the ability of our county to take care of our residents during emergencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin D. Skaar".

Erin D. Skaar, Chair