

Submitter: Brian Crow

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2948

Please support House Bill 2948.

Over the last decade, county fairgrounds have been instrumental in providing critical infrastructure during times of disaster. During 2020 alone, the Clackamas County Fair and Event Center stood up resources to support our communities, and the state as a whole, for a late-winter ice storm as well as the 2020 summer fires. We provided a warming shelter for citizens without power during the ice storm and housed more than 1,000 evacuated people and animals during the summer fires. Fast forward to summer of 2022. Clackamas County Disaster Management coordinated with our Event Center to become a resource for evacuated animals as a result of the McIver fire.

We are in the funding process to construct a 45,000 square foot facility, which is being designed to be a place of refuge during disasters. It will be climate controlled and will have both a photo-voltaic system and an external generator connection for times when power is not available. The entire project is \$16,500,000. We have raised \$10M so far and additional capital funding will get us closer to the finish line.

County Fairgrounds don't just exist to put on the annual county fair, but we are an integral part of disaster management and provide opportunities for our communities to gather together at various functions throughout the year. However, most county fairgrounds do not receive any general fund contributions and have to operate on a shoestring budget and as a result many of our buildings and other facilities have suffered from decades of deferred maintenance.

The result of this bill passing will mean that we will have access to an additional pool of money with which we can sensibly use to better serve our communities during times of natural disasters. Please support House Bill 2948.