



March 23, 2021

State of Oregon Legislature
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

Re: *Support of House Bill 2948*

Dear Committee Members:

The Crook County Fair Board and Crook County Commissioner Brummer urges your support for House Bill 2948 that would create a \$20 million grant fund within the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for improvements of fairgrounds that are used as emergency evacuation sites. Recently our county fairgrounds and the state fair stepped up when our communities needed them the most. Through the global pandemic, wildfire relief efforts, and vaccination efforts, our fairgrounds were transformed overnight into vaccination clinics, testing centers, makeshift hospitals, shelter for thousands of people and animals.

Meanwhile, our fairs, youth education events, cultural festivals, trade shows and expositions, equestrian events, craft & hobby shows, consumer shows, non-profit, fundraisers, and community social events were severely restricted. This left counties and their fairgrounds financially strapped and ineligible for most federal COVID relief funding.

HB 2948 would fund much-needed capital infrastructure so that we can make sure fairgrounds are ready for events and more importantly, emergency disaster response.

We encourage you to continue your commitment to County Fairgrounds by passing HB 2948 so we can make sure our fairgrounds are ready for the future.

Sincerely,

Gail Merritt
Chairperson Crook County Fair Board

Jerry Brummer
Crook County Commissioner