



Board of Commissioners

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Dear Representative Dacia Grayber, Representative Rick Lewis, Representative Thuy Tran, Representative Charlie Conrad, Representative Maxine Dexter, Representative Paul Evans, Representative James Hieb

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

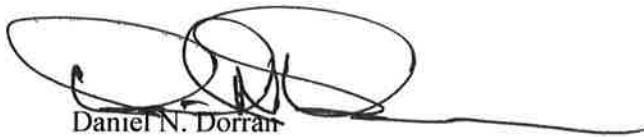
We are submitting this testimony on behalf of Umatilla County in support of HB 2948. In a county of over 3,200 square miles of which all have experienced natural catastrophic complications including wildfire, flooding, loss of access, wind. Multiplying these natural threats are multiple pipelines, more train track mileage than any other county in Oregon, large number of FHWA, ODOT and county bridges, and multiple processing and refining plants. Each and every one of these offer the very real opportunity for the immediate need for emergency evacuations.

Although Umatilla County shares its fairgrounds with the City of Hermiston, it is located in a central, high ground location near airport and medical facilities. It is also equipped to quickly unload, sort, feed and water large numbers of livestock of all kinds.

What it does not have is adequate power distribution to facilitate emergency management trailers, staffing portable housing, and supplemental support. We have great facilities to handle the many direct services for people and animals, we just can't take advantage due to lack of supporting utilities for the folks that are tasked with supporting the basic needs.

We strongly encourage this committee to support this request for funding to make sure that our fairgrounds can continue to be an emergency support facility that can support all the challenges that are thrown our way.

Thanks again to the committee,



Daniel N. Dorrán
Umatilla County Commissioner