



# Harney County Fairgrounds

69660 S. Egan Rd  
Burns, OR 97720

March 23, 2023

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Re: HB 2948 Support

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis, Tran and members of the committee,

My name is Lindsey Robertson. I am the Harney County Fair and Fairgrounds Manager and have been in this position for a little over a year. I am submitting my written testimony in support of this bill and the funding for fairgrounds facilities across the state of Oregon that act as emergency response, respite facilities, and operation centers for their counties and/or communities.

It is widely known that many of the state's fairgrounds facilities and expo centers are aging and have structural and infrastructure challenges that have not been funded and ultimately unaddressed over the course of many decades.

As Harney County has begun planning for some upgrades and additions to the buildings around the grounds, it is evident that updating the infrastructure must happen first. Water, sewer, electrical, and other needs have been patched together over the decades in an attempt to accommodate sporadic growth. Our area continues to see large wildfires and large fire crews come to our area. In order to satisfy the needs of these crews, we desperately need to improve our facilities. In the event that our community members or neighboring communities experience disasters, we need to be able to house displaced people, livestock, pets, and people with RV's for a potentially lengthy period of time. Some of the projects we would consider are:

- grounds-wide communication and PA system
- security upgrades
- livestock building upgrades
- LED lighting upgrades
- Electrical upgrades
- Purchase of generators
- Upgrade septic
- Add additional restrooms
- Storage
- Commercial, community kitchen

Our fairgrounds is an essential part of our community. Our ability to provide emergency services for our local and/or neighboring communities is directly tied to the condition and capacity of our property and its infrastructure. Readiness on this scale, or possibly statewide, requires funding beyond the capability of local budgets. Please move HB 2948 forward to help fairgrounds improve their readiness for emergency response.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lindsey Robertson  
Harney County Fair/Fairgrounds Manager