



*EOCA represents 14 eastern and central Oregon counties, comprising a significant majority of the land within the state's borders. Our constituents face unique challenges due the diverse and dramatic geography of the counties we represent. Together, our respective commissioners work collaboratively to advocate on behalf of those who live, learn, and work in Eastern Oregon. We aim to shape policies that recognize the needs of our region of the state and challenges we face.*

Thank You Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber & Lewis and Members of the Committee.

For the record, I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes I also serve as Co-Chair of Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA). EOCA consists of 15 members Counties East of the crest of the Cascades.

I am in full support of HB2136 as presented by Representative Scharf This has been and continues to be a priority for Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

Fairgrounds across Oregon are a logical choice to continue to serve as emergency shelters. County Commissioners, County Emergency managers and OEM have been working to identify the service that each County Fairgrounds can provide in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

HB2136 provides funds to help fairgrounds to be better prepared to provide crucial services.

A short list of the services provide during emergencies  
Are:

- Serving as a mass testing site during an early and sever Covid outbreak
- Boarding livestock displaced by the wildfires
- Youth educational presentations
- Wildland fire camps
- Public RV Camping spaces

As commissioners we have increased Fairground funding in our budgets and through Federal COVID Relief money. These amount to band aids given the continuous costs to Fairgrounds.

Support from the State is needed to continue and improve this vital role that Fairgrounds play in the State of Oregon.

Thank you,

Paul Anderes Union County Commissioner