

Submitter: Dan Jenkins

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2346

During the summer of 2024 Harney County had several large wildfires. Residents within the city limits of Burns and Hines, and residents in the county were on evacuation levels for the months of July and August. Local emergency responders were soon overwhelmed with the additional duties and responsibilities the fires dictated.

Several entities responded to our area to assist. One of those entities was the ODHS Emergency Management Team. ODHS Emergency Management were extremely helpful in organizing evacuation shelters and shelter locations in coordination with Red Cross, assisting local health care with patients whose medical conditions made for difficult evacuations, fielding calls from the public, helping our local women's domestic violence shelter obtain funding for improvements, responding to structures lost to the fire and helping owners with the recovery process, etc.

ODHS Emergency Management made it possible for the citizens of Harney County to receive the services they deserve from the public safety entities. Their assistance was invaluable to our community.

I support HB 2346. ODHS-OREM is a necessary tool to any county experiencing a catastrophic event.

Dan Jenkins  
Harney County Sheriff