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## Board of County Commissioners Multnomah County

March 20, 2023

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 2990, Community Resilience Hubs and Networks

Honorable Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the Committee:

As leaders and partners within the emergency response and safety net systems that support community members before, during and after crisis events; we are writing in support of House Bill 2990 (HB 2990).

Multnomah County has worked hard to develop a robust emergency response system that reflects the needs of our diverse community, and we are proud of what we have accomplished. Still, there is more work to be done as the frequency, duration and severity of natural disasters, including climate-related events and the looming threat of a Cascadia earthquake, continue to increase. These events can cause significant damage to our infrastructure, disrupt our daily lives, and put the safety of our families and neighbors at risk.

As we move forward, centering community led resilience efforts will be a critical component of our disaster preparedness strategy and will improve the quality and efficiency of our response systems. That is why this bill is so important.

In response to recent emergencies, including the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat dome that took the lives of 72 Multnomah County residents, District Four Commissioner Lori Stegmann convened a workgroup in East Multnomah County to define what community resilience means for East Multnomah County residents, and identify strategies to improve resilience. This process highlighted the need for dedicated spaces that work to build individual and community resilience by supporting community members before, during and after crisis events. Specifically, the group envisioned a building that could provide access to life saving resources during a crisis event, such as portable water, power (in the event of a prolonged outage), food and shelter.

In light of the increasing number of crises our state has been facing, it is critical that we have the resources in place to prepare for and respond to these events. HB 2990 would provide the necessary funding for local communities to plan and build community-driven resilience strategies.

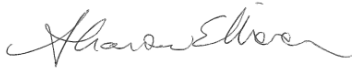
Building local resilience is a critical component of any climate crisis preparedness plan. By adapting to our changing climate and preparing for future climate crisis events, lives will be saved. Local resilience hubs will also reduce the burden placed upon the state and local government emergency response systems, and communities will be better equipped with access to critical, life-saving resources.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2990. We cannot afford to wait any longer to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. By investing in resilience hubs, we are investing in the long-term health and security of our communities.

Sincerely,



Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson



Commissioner Sharon Meieran, District 1



Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, District 2



Commissioner Diane Rosenbaum, District 3



Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4