

Submitter: Andrea Gonzalez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Date: March 15, 2023 To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: Support for HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs,

and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment, My name is Andrea Gonzalez, and I live in Astoria, OR. I am writing to you because I believe we need more resources to address emergency preparedness in our state.

We especially need support in our rural area and resources to provide emergency preparedness materials to non-English speaking communities. I support HB 2990 to create a grant program through the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management that will go directly to communities to build and implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks. I support Community Resilience Hubs because research shows that rural and non-english speaking communities are more likely to be unprepared for emergency situations. Although I live in Clatsop County, I have also worked in Tillamook county and was able to survey the Spanish-speaking community there.

When asked how prepared they felt in case of a natural disaster on a scale of 1(not at all prepared)-5(very prepared), almost 30% said they were not at all prepared and 0% felt very prepared. When our communities are threatened by tsunamis, wildfires, extreme heat, and other climate disasters, we should look out for ALL our neighbors. By creating these resilience hubs to gather and care for each other in good times and bad, our communities become safer and stronger. I urge you to vote Yes on HB 2990 to invest in building stronger communities, and create the resources and connections to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes. Stronger communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving. Sincerely, Andrea Gonzalez  
Astoria, Oregon