

Submitter: Drew Alcoser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Hello, my name is Drew Alcoser, my pronouns are they/them, I live on the outskirts of Portland. I am a 'mature' grad student of social innovation at Portland State University. I have been engaged with climate action and advocacy at the national level since migrating from Southern California a few years ago due to my fears of the looming climate crisis and erratic weather. But what I have come to understand since relocating here is that there is no place to escape the harms of the changing climate. Oregonians suffer too. The objective of this letter is to express my support of HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs.

Growing up in a region with several active earthquake faults, I understand the importance of preparedness. During the Oregon wildfires, during heat dome events, and during climate induced winter storms, it will be up to the neighborhood community members throughout the state who rise to gather resources. And when something truly sudden and tragic happens, these folks will be there first because it may take twice as long for professional help to arrive. Although these ideas are not new, the bottleneck is the coordination of stakeholders. This bill seeks to centralize resource communication between the existing, but sometimes fragmented agencies and community based organizations within these hubs. Through a unification, standardizing and development process, the communities will realize better coordination and distribution of resources and funds amongst the neighborhoods and regions within a city.

The idea of a resilience hub for each community can be imagined and configured to provide community cohesion in the unique way that each needs such as food growing, job readiness, mobile vans ,these activities will cultivate physical, social, and ecological well-being with a sense of belonging and safety. When an emergency approaches or the day comes that a sudden disaster strikes, it will be the hub that is activated. All those people that participated in the day-to-day activities of the hub will now experience a kinship that will strengthen the disaster response and comfort the people in the neighborhood.

You and I probably all share these fears (or may not feel good to admit to) about the climate crisis and the Cascadia earthquake. With community resilience hubs in our neighborhoods, we can be soothed just a little by participating in the activities of these hubs.

Please join me with your support of HB 2990.

Thank you.

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