

Submitter: Arica Sears

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

March 17, 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 Arica Sears and I am a volunteer board member for the Kiawanda Community Center in Pacific City. Our community center is the hub of activity here in our rural town including providing senior meals onsite and via delivery, health and wellness classes, flu clinics and blood drives as well as the central place residents gather for town halls, planning meetings and cultural events. Our Board of Directors 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. We support Community Resilience Hubs because: We have faced several natural disaster events in the past few years including the 2020 wildfires, the COVID19 pandemic and more recently an extreme snowstorm that left many without power in our community. During these events we are often the first place people call or come to for support like meals, shelter, information and support. Our center is functioning as a community resilience hub currently but without the resources like training, information or infrastructure (like solar panels or generators) to support our community properly before, during and after emergencies. We believe investments in our building to make it more resilient during power outages like solar panels, generators or more efficient heating, lighting and water systems will also save us money monthly, ensuring that our community organization funded by donations and private events can continue to be a community place. By creating an efficient and well-equipped building we will be able to support our small population of 1,200 as well as the thousands of visitors that are here during summer months often with only enough food for the afternoon and no awareness of where to go, what to do and how to remain safe during emergencies. We 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. Better prepared and connected communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving. Sincerely, Arica Sears, President of Kiawanda Community Center Pacific City, Oregon