

Date: March 21, 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,

We write in strong support of HB 2990 which would 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 can protect our health and safety and foster resilient communities by creating places to gather and care for each other in good times and bad.

We support Community Resilience Hubs because:

- 1. We have family who were evacuated during Oregon's Holiday Farm fire wildfire and dear friends whose homes were destroyed during the same fire. A friend lost his life when wildfire destroyed his home in the North Santiam.**
- 2. Coastal and Western Oregon are overdue for a major subduction earthquake. We are poorly prepared. Hubs would help us prepare.**
- 3. The continued transport by train of dangerous chemicals, coal, oil and gas products threaten our communities. Remember the derailment in Mosier?**
- 4. Existing and proposed fracked gas pipelines threaten the health and safety of our communities. We must be prepared for human-caused disasters and those that are triggered by earthquakes, wildfires and climate chaos.**

We are so very grateful to those who lead this critical effort and urge you to vote Yes on HB 2990 to invest in building stronger, safer communities, and create the resources and connections to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes. Strong communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Thank you for considering our request,
Regna Merritt (retired Physician Assistant)
Thomas T. Ward, MD

