

TO: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
FR: Paige Hopkins
DT: March 21, 2023
RE: **Testimony in support of HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs**

Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

My name is Paige Hopkins and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to you as an Oregon resident who has experienced how wildfire and extreme heat have impacted my community. The impacts of climate change are already happening and we need access to the resources and connections that this bill can provide. I am expressing my support of HB 2990 (Community Resilience Hubs) to create a grant program that will go directly to communities to build and implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks. Passing this bill is a necessary step in fighting the climate crisis while strengthening healthy and resilient communities here in Oregon.

Climate change is the most pressing issue of our time, and Oregon is already experiencing several adverse impacts including unprecedented heat domes and climate-fueled wildfires. During the Summer, there were several days where wildfire and extreme heat impacted the health of my family. Many people were not able to go outside due to the poor air quality or the intensity of the heat. This caused them to shelter indoors, when some did not have air conditioning. They had to seek refuge elsewhere. Though this turned out difficult due to lack of accessibility to these places. There is a need to have more options available to seek refuge in safe spaces that are accessible, especially for those who are most vulnerable to climate change. It would have helped many in my community who want to have to access air conditioning, better air quality, food, or any other resources that are necessary before, after or during disasters.

I am an advocate for Community Resilience Hubs because it is vital that our community members have somewhere to access in times of an emergency or disaster. These centers can be a place for everyone to build and strengthen their connections in the community before the next disaster strikes. This will allow us to not only survive but thrive and be resilient.

This legislature must make the most of this unprecedented opportunity to build stronger communities. Thank you for your time, and please vote “Yes” on passing Community Resilience Hubs, HB 2990.

Sincerely,

Paige Hopkins
Eugene, Oregon