



Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Salem, OR

March 22, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. Spark Northwest is a nonprofit that partners on clean energy projects with rural, urban, and coastal marginalized communities across the Pacific Northwest. We applaud the Committee's decision to hear HB 2990 today and **urge you to support the bill and proposed amendments.**

Catastrophic wildfires and other **extreme weather events are the new norm** in Oregon. Many communities – especially those most impacted by disasters – have done an excellent job of responding creatively and collaboratively. However, responding to disasters is physically, mentally, and financially taxing.

This bill will **empower rural, urban, and coastal communities** across the state to design and build durable physical and social infrastructure to keep community members **safe and healthy before, during, and after disasters.** It will also streamline resilience and emergency response by **consolidating existing state resources** under a single program. And we are excited that the bill will facilitate planning for **renewable energy generation and back up**, to increase resilience if the utility grid is down for extended periods.

We are thrilled that **this bipartisan bill has support from communities and state agencies alike**, and we appreciate your efforts to pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,

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