



March 22, 2023

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: Please approve [HB 2990](#)

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Families for Climate strongly supports the development of a proactive planning and implementation grant program to strengthen community resilience. Not only will the communications and emergency response systems developed through this process strengthen communities' abilities to grapple with seismic and climate-induced disasters, the relationships & partnerships developed through these processes hold potential to help communities thrive in good times.

For example, we believe that schools are important community hubs and have potential to provide clean air and cooling for hundreds of people during wildfire smoke or heat emergencies. But, between emergencies, any infrastructure upgrades to schools would mean that children in older buildings would, for the first time, have clean air and cooling available, enhancing children's ability to learn.¹

We also appreciate the flexibility of the Resilience Hub bill, so communities can tailor their planning process to their unique needs. This bill could dovetail with funding and programs being developed in other legislation, such as HB 3016 (the TREES Act) and/or SB 870 (existing buildings performance standards).

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. Stronger communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Sincere thanks,

Board of Directors
Families for Climate

¹ Currently, some west-facing classrooms adjacent to expanses of pavement can reach 90 degrees in Aug/Sept and May. See August 2022 story about Portland Public Schools <https://www.koin.com/news/education/100-year-old-pps-buildings-no-match-for-100-degree-heat/>