



www.RogueClimate.org || PO Box 1980, Phoenix, OR 97535 || 541-301-9204

March 22, 2023

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Rogue Climate submits this testimony in support of House Bill 2990, Community Resilience Hubs. Rogue Climate is a climate justice nonprofit with offices in Phoenix and Coos Bay, Oregon. We helped organize and manage mutual aid fire relief centers immediately after the Almeda Fire in 2020, where we served hundreds of fire-affected community members daily. We learned a lot through this experience, including why it's so important to have established resilience hubs and networks.

During and after the Almeda fire in 2020, mobile home neighborhoods, school districts, local restaurants, community-based organizations, faith communities, neighbors, and volunteers became essential responders to provide relief and support in accessible, low-barrier ways. We all became part of a wider mutual aid network, each fulfilling a piece of the puzzle. It was no easy task. Countless hours and days of rapid volunteer coordination, check-ins, group chats, donation drives, all because we were not ready. There's a huge need to invest in our communities now, so that we can be prepared for later.

Communities across the state, especially low-income, rural, communities of color, children, people with disabilities, and people living outside, are hit hardest in times of disaster. Community Resilience Hubs and networks are meant to serve communities on a day to day basis, while also being equipped to activate during a disruption, whether that's providing clean water, access to energy, food, childcare, mental health services, medical supplies, and so forth. The possibilities of how hubs can gather, coordinate and share resources and services are decided by the community and its needs. These projects can also partner with local governments and emergency management to strengthen efforts and mitigate disaster recovery gaps.

These hubs and networks are an important addition to how Oregon approaches emergency management and promotes social and physical wellbeing. Rogue Climate asks you to please support HB 2990 to better care for our communities everyday and when disaster strikes, so we can adapt and recover in a positive way.

Sincerely,

Alessandra de la Torre
Advocacy & Programs Director, Rogue Climate