

Submitter: Brad Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the committee,

I support HB 2990 to 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.

During the Labor Day wildfires of 2020, as the evacuation zones crept closer and closer to where I lived, the climate crisis became more personal than ever. I had friends who live farther south in Clackamas County who had to leave their homes and hope the flames didn't reach them. Most had to go to the convention center in Portland as a makeshift emergency shelter.

Being suddenly uprooted by danger is so disorienting, it will serve our communities well to have plans, a network, and a place we know to go in the event of an emergency. That's why community resilience hubs are so important. And no one knows the community like people who live and work there, so creating structures and systems for locals and local nonprofits to organize and take care of each other is a key strategy for better survival during disasters.

From increasing climate disasters to the inevitable earthquake, our communities need the tools to be ready and locations we know will be there to serve us.

I 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.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed  
Milwaukie