



March 24th, 2023

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

My name is Neil Baunsgard and I am the Climate Policy Manager at the Environmental Center based in Central Oregon as well as serving on the Resilient Efficient Buildings Taskforce. I am voicing our strong support for HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs, which aims to establish a grant initiative via the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management. The program would provide direct funding to communities for the purpose of constructing and implementing Community Resilience Hubs and networks.

When we think about addressing climate change, our minds usually focus on mitigation - reducing emissions or capturing greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere. However, it's also important to develop programs to help those impacted by climate change. As the climate crisis worsens, we can expect more severe weather events, including thunderstorms, flooding, heat waves, and droughts. In Oregon, where summers are dry and prone to wildfires, warming temperatures and reduced rainfall will increase the risk of fires. Governments need to prepare for these events and provide locations for people to escape them, particularly for those who are less economically advantaged. These Resilience Hubs can also serve as safe spaces during other disasters like earthquakes.

I encourage you to vote yes on HB 2990 as it aims to invest in the development of more robust communities, establish crucial resources, and foster connections that can facilitate relief efforts in the event of future disasters. Building stronger communities can have a significant impact on the ability of Oregonians to not just survive but also thrive during difficult times.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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