

Submitter: Kim Vogel
On Behalf Of: United Church of Christ Disaster Ministry Team
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2990

My name is Kim Vogel and I live in Hood River, Oregon. I am the United Church of Christ Central Pacific Conference Disaster Coordinator, representing Oregonians in 30 churches throughout our state. Our churches have provided shelter and emergency items during the 2020 wildfire season and Umatilla River flooding event, cooling shelters during the 2021 heat dome, and worked with the City of Talent to create a new affordable housing community by providing funding for electrical hookups and three months of service for each resident. We are currently working with the Oregon Department of Resilience and Emergency Management in forming a network of faith providers to provide mass care during an emergency.

We support HB 2990 to create a grant program to implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks as these may be the most efficient ways to help Oregonians before and after disasters and emergencies occur.

Disasters are unique to each community. We often cannot prevent disasters from occurring. What we CAN do is to prepare and help Oregonians to weather whatever comes by having local Resiliency Hubs ready to provide immediate access to education, information, and resources. Additional funding to establish these Hubs can mean the difference between surviving and thriving.

I join with previous supporters and urge you to vote YES on HB 2990 to strengthen our communities, protecting all Oregonians and making a safer future for our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.