



March 24, 2023

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: Support for HB 2990, Community Resilience Hubs

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

On behalf of our statewide coalition of more than 35 community-based, government, and faith-based organizations, representing and serving communities in all regions of Oregon, we urge you to vote yes for Community Resilience Hubs, HB 2990, -1 amendment.

It's no secret that Oregon's emergency management services are stretched thin, and across the state, people of color, low-income, rural, and disabled communities are hit hardest in times of disaster.

During the 2020 wildfires, community-based organizations and volunteer groups were essential responders. Partnerships between community groups and local governments can mitigate gaps when responding to such disasters and everyday life.

Community Resilience Hubs are trusted places with networks of care designed by and for communities to cultivate physical, social, and ecological well-being with a sense of belonging and safety. The hubs will support day-to-day life and activate during disruptions and recovery efforts before, during, and after climate-related emergencies and other natural disasters. Each community will design its local hub to reflect what works for them, whether that's resource navigation, community gardens, workforce readiness, family activities, or mobile vans.

We are stronger together. When our communities are threatened by wildfires, extreme heat, and other disasters, we look out for our neighbors. If we invest in building our communities, we will create the resources and connections needed to make it easier on Oregonians the next time a disaster strikes. Resilient communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

HB 2990, -1 amendment, Community Resilience Hubs creates:

- Resilient buildings, new or retrofitted with heating and cooling, air filtration, and emergency supplies. Collaboration in energy systems and community-based renewable energy programs like electric heat pumps and solar panels with battery backup.
- Community-based communication networks, resource navigation systems, and services across districts.
- 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.

There are great examples across the country and in Oregon of resilience hubs and networks forming in spaces like libraries, community organizations, faith institutions, small businesses, mobile vans, and more. Communities share resources and navigation systems like workforce readiness, family activities, community gardens, and other services that build trust, prepare communities, and improve our overall well being to strengthen our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

The Community Resilience Hubs Coalition

Community Resilience Hubs



Steering Committee



COALITION MEMBERS



WE ALL RISE



LLOYD ECO DISTRICT

