

Submitter: Archie Koenig  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Ways and Means Committee members,

I want to share my experience during the Alameda Fire because it shows why I support HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs and why it's so important to have people and places that can help navigate and provide resources.

On September 8th, 2020, I was working at Harry and David in Medford and that's when I heard about the fire in Talent. I was taking the City bus to work that day because my car was waiting for repairs.

When I got off work at 3:15 PM there were no buses going south to Talent so I went North and wound up at the fair grounds in Central Point. I stayed at a temporary housing facility for about a week at the fair grounds. I was in a tented room partitioned off to another room from a retired Registered Nurse whose name was (Bug). She lost her home in the fire, just like I did. There were many of us who had no more clothing other than what we brought and Bug was able to find clothing for us through the city of Medford. During these last three years, I was able to get connected to other resources that made it possible to get temporary and now permanent housing.

If I didn't meet Bug and get connected to other programs that helped me recover from the fires, I don't know where I'd be right now. Everyone needs access to help and resources, especially when it's an emergency. I think resilience hubs can help with that, to make sure people are connected to someone that can help for the long-run. Please vote yes on HB 2990.

I'm also member of the Bellview Grange in Ashland and non profit orgs do not qualify for tax credits for solar. Services need to be provided for non-profit orgs like the Bellview Grange for things like Solar Panels and EV charging stations.

Thank you for your time.

Archie Koenig