

Submitter: Hannah Sohl  
On Behalf Of: Rogue Climate  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Hannah Sohl and I am the Executive Director of Rogue Climate a community organization based out of the Rogue Valley and South Coast.

I am testifying today in support of a state budget that prioritizes strategic climate action for our communities.

The passage of the IRA has put millions on the table that could help rural communities increase energy efficiency, invest in job training, and transition to clean energy. Unfortunately, our communities are not prepared to take advantage of those funds without upfront investment from the state. That's why it's critical to invest in our state agencies and climate programs that will fully leverage those funds and maximize benefits to improve public health, create family wage jobs, and reduce climate pollution.

Unfortunately, key investments outlined in the People's Budget, including to increase climate resilience, are not adequately funded under the Co-Chairs Budget Framework. Legislators must invest in climate and communities now, rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund.

As part of a climate resilient budget we would specifically like to see the funding of the HB 2990 Community resilience hubs grant program, which can work in tandem with new and existing federal and state funding. After the Alameda Fire, it took weeks, sometimes months, for emergency response entities to get established. It was community groups, teachers, and faith communities, that set up impromptu "Hubs" for communications and supplies in driveways and parking lots that supported our neighbors get through the days. Every summer is one hot windy day away from another Alameda fire. We want to see community based centers in every region that are prepared to support our communities before, during and after disruptions.

We are also very concerned about the domestic terrorism bill (HB2772) before the Ways and Means Committee. For years we worked with impacted landowners, tribes, and environmental groups to ensure robust public participation in the Jordan Cove LNG permitting process. Public records request revealed that the TITAN Fusion center, a center whose primary task is Anti-terrorism intelligence analysis, was surveilling community groups like Rogue Climate for their participation in this community campaign. The State of Oregon is involved in an active lawsuit because of this illegal surveillance on Oregonians exercising their rights to protest and engage

in public hearings. This same Fusion Center contributed to the report that legislators are relying on to support that this bill is needed. This bill is modeled after legislation passed in other states specifically designed to target people protesting pipeline expansions. As you can imagine this raises concerns about how a policy like this could be misused to target climate groups, rural communities, and indigenous communities exercising their rights. We urge you to not rush this bill forward.