



January 30, 2025

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: **Support for Resilience Hubs and Networks**

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment:

My name is Brad Ketch, and I live in Gresham. I am the CEO of the Community Development Corporation of Oregon, which is best known locally as the Rockwood CDC. Rockwood is Oregon's most distressed and diverse large community. For six years we operated the Sunrise Center, which was a prototype Resilience Hub.

I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks because I saw first-hand the power of our Hub during crisis. When COVID hit, we knew where the epicenter of deaths in Oregon would be: Rockwood. My organization quarterbacked the play with our community, and served as a focal point for millions of dollars of emergency aid from OHA, FEMA, SBA, ODA, Multnomah County, foundations and many others. Our Sunrise Center moved 500,000 meals, thousands of vaccinations, and millions of dollars of personal protective equipment. Most importantly, we did it through the previously-established network of smaller culturally-specific community based organizations. The Resilience Hub model works.

Now that the COVID crisis is over, the work of the Network goes on. The relationships and trust that we all forged continue to function. Today, my organization frequently serves as the hub, and about twelve culturally-specific small organizations are spokes that distribute resources deep into otherwise hard to reach populations.

I urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Brad Ketch
Gresham, Oregon