

Submitter: Dana Greenblatt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

After living in Southern Oregon during the 2020 Almeda and Obenchain fires, I saw first hand the impacts of disaster on a community that thought we were prepared for natural disaster. Although the Rogue Valley has understood for decades the risk of devastating fires for our towns and cities, the wreckage and lack of preparedness after these fires was evident. During the immediate days after the fires 100s of families were left without the immediate resources they needed to live, including shelter. Large organizations such as the Red Cross and government entities such as FEMA were minimally helpful and we learned that the only truly reliable source of support was each other. I believe this bill will strengthen existing community resilience efforts and leave cities and towns in Oregon better prepared for natural disasters. With more funding and material supports, the impact of future disasters can be lessened and fewer lives will be severely impacted. As we continue to see the impacts of climate collapse, we know that fires will become more frequent and powerful. Please vote yes on this urgent bill.