

Date: January 28, 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 Greer Klepacki, and I live in Portland, OR in HD42. I am writing today as the Policy & Advocacy Manager with Community Energy Project (CEP), where we serve clients on the front lines of climate change including low-income, seniors and folks with disabilities. CEP offers free environmental and energy education, weatherization supplies, direct home repairs, energy upgrades, full energy retrofits, and maintenance services, all at no cost to our community members.

CEP supports HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Extreme weather and wildfires continue to hurt Oregonians, and we must ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to thrive, not just survive.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because we know that community resilience hubs provide invaluable resources and opportunities for community members to be protected and prepared for extreme weather, wildfires and other devastating events that are often impossible to prepare for. It allows communities to be proactive rather than reactive. All Oregonians, especially those in rural communities, deserve to be supported and considered in emergency situations, and the community resilience hubs help to ensure that this becomes a reality.

So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks has invested \$10 million in locally-driven, community-led efforts to prepare us for disaster. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 96 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding.

These grants helped communities repair buildings that are emergency shelters, purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles, and financed staff positions like nurses and outreach staff. These investments will save lives, help first responders, speed recovery, and benefit the communities that are hit first and worst by extreme weather, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

I urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities, especially in places where it matters most.

Sincerely,

Greer Klepacki, Policy & Advocacy Manager with Community Energy Project
Portland, OR 97214