

Date: January 31, 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 Amy. I live in Cove, located in rural Eastern Oregon. In partnership with Oregon Rural Action, our community applied and did not receive funding to support a resilience hub. I want to express my support for renewing the grant funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks through HB 3170.

This funding can make an especially profound impact on rural communities. Cove is a small town. Our entire zip code has less than 800 households. As a rural community, we are especially vulnerable to the impacts of disaster. We are in a food desert and at great risk of wildfires and drought. We rely on volunteer-led fire services and the nearest medical care is 30 minutes away and limited. There is a twice monthly senior meals program that serves 80 seniors – many who are living on social security alone and rely on their community for support. When people are vulnerable every day, there is great danger for them in disaster.

With funding for a resilience hub, we could make necessary upgrades to our existing community center to ensure it can be a safe and effective gathering space in case of emergencies and times of crucial need. A resilience grant would provide upgraded heating and an added cooling unit. Each year we experience colder and hotter temperatures – often dangerous when sustained for weeks on end. I work for a nonprofit organization that provides summer camps for children in Cove. We had to keep children indoors after nosebleeds became uncontrollable during a heat dome. This is only going to become the norm. We watch as smoke rises from just behind our town each fire season. The reality is, we will be impacted eventually. The danger is increasing, and we do not have the infrastructure to come alongside our community in case of an emergency. HB 3170 would bring resources to Cove and transform our ability to address emergencies.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Jayne

Cove, Oregon