

Submitter: Mary Howells

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

Date: February 2, 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 Mary Howells, and I live in Albany, OR. I am writing because I am an Oregonian who is concerned about the health and safety of their fellow Oregonians amidst the climate crisis. I support 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 preparedness is key to mitigating the disastrous effects of emergency situations, and this bill is crucial for preparing our communities. Weather-related disasters is our new normal; just in 2024, Oregon has dealt with both extreme winter and summer conditions, not to mention record-breaking wildfires. Continuing to invest in the resiliency of our communities to respond to these disasters must also become our new normal.

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 demand and need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

These grants helped communities to repair emergency shelters, to purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles, and to finance staff positions like nurses and outreach staff. These investments will save lives, help first responders, expedite 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 and taking care of each other.

Sincerely,

Mary Howells

Albany, Oregon