

Submitter: D Clark
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

February 3, 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 Deborah Clark, and I've lived on a small farm in Linn County for 40 years. As an Oregonian, I experienced the devastating wildfires of 2020 firsthand, evacuating my home to escape the smoke and the very real threat of losing my house. I was fortunate to have family to take me in, but many others weren't so lucky.

With our increasingly unstable climate, we know we'll face more severe weather events like wildfires, drought, extreme heat, and flooding. Our communities must be prepared, and we must support each other.

I strongly support HB 3170, which would provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. These vital resources ensure that all communities, not just some, have the support they need to thrive, not just survive, in the face of disaster.

The Resilience Hubs and Networks program has already invested \$10 million in locally-driven, community-led preparedness efforts. However, the demand far outstrips the available funding. In the last grant cycle, over 700 applications were submitted, yet only 96 could be funded. This clearly demonstrates the urgent need for increased investment.

These grants have been used to:

Repair buildings used as emergency shelters.

Purchase critical equipment like satellite phones, generators (including solar generators), water purification systems, and emergency vehicles.

Fund essential staff positions, such as nurses and outreach coordinators.

I urge you to support HB 3170. Investing in Resilience Hubs and Networks is an investment in building stronger, more resilient Oregon communities.