

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

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment:

My name is Victoria Hart, and I live in La Grande, Oregon. I am writing as part of a group of neighbors and community leaders in Union County seeking to develop a robust network of hyper-local community resilience hubs. I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. In fact, I was involved in one of the 700 applications to the first round of grant funds. Our application was not among the 96 selected for funding, but communities like Union County remain in need of the kind of support this bill could offer.

I co-signed a letter of support that included this explanation of the coordinated efforts that already exist in this community and would be bolstered significantly by HB3170: 'As a member of the Zion Lutheran Church-La Grande Climate Resilience Core Team, I'm well aware of the need for a resilience network in Union County. We are and have been participating in the Climate Resilience Cohort, a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-Oregon Synod, which has brought together teams of leaders from faith communities throughout Oregon to work together in building more resilient communities.

As part of this effort, we have met with community members throughout Union County to understand their concerns about climate-related disasters and identify areas of need. We have learned from this process that resources and information needed to cope with a disaster are extremely limited locally. Furthermore, there is great vulnerability in Union County due to the fact that this is a very rural area with food desert status and critical service gaps in healthcare, broadband access, and public transportation, as well as a high proportion of low income and elderly residents. Among other challenges, rural homeowners face the risk of wildfires damaging or destroying their property and homes.'

The initial investment in this program has already demonstrated its value and necessity. Supporting HB 3170 is crucial for continuing to build resilient communities across Oregon.

Thank you,  
Victoria Hart  
La Grande, OR