

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

Hello State Legislators,

Thanks for doing the work you do to support communities across the state. I am a volunteer on the Core Organizing team at Leaven Community Center in Portland, and I'm writing to voice my support for HB 3170. I've been involved with this community nonprofit organization for over a decade, and at the heart of our work is the practice of deepening community relationships and trust—both through the sharing of individual stories and by responding to shared pressures with collective action.

I'm not quite sure how to put into words the impact and transformation that this work has had on me personally and that I've seen it have on my Portland neighbors, but I'll give it a shot. It has helped me redefine resilience, showing me that one of the most important ingredients of community resilience is the strength and breadth of relationships and trust between people in a local area. If relationships are shallow and trust is minimal—whether between neighbors or between public institutions and the people they serve—then even the best-prepared emergency response plans and resources will have limited impact.

Although I could share many examples of how I've seen true resilience in action at Leaven Community, here are two that stand out: One is the story of Richard and Carol, two aging members of our community. In a time when so many seniors in our country face institutionalization, isolation, or dependence on a small nuclear family that can be stretched to the breaking point, Leaven has helped mobilize a village of support around Richard in his final months and around Carol as she navigates life without her partner of more than 40 years. Instead of facing this transition alone (including navigating climate emergencies of recent years, such as the ice storms and heat waves), they have been surrounded by care, celebration, and deep human connection. This experience of community while facing the reality of aging and dying has been a stark contrast to what I've seen in my own nuclear family and in broader society. I wish this kind of support were something available to all people as they face the later stages of life.

Another powerful example is Barbie's Village, a project that Leaven helped support by networking with and uplifting the work of Future Generations Collaborative and other organizations. This initiative has been a healing, transformative process in which the children of settlers have returned land to Indigenous community members—without strings attached or expectation of anything in return. Being a tiny

part of this was one of the most profoundly emotional and hope giving experiences of my life, and the trust-building and restoration that has come from this work is a testament to what is possible when relationships, rather than transactions, are at the center of how we approach justice and healing. These might not be the first kinds of stories that come to mind for many people when they think about resilience. But to me, that's exactly why the work of Leaven Community and similar organizations across the state is so important. Resilience isn't just about responding to emergencies—it's about ensuring that no one faces life's everyday challenges alone. This work at Leaven is already happening on a shoestring budget with limited resources, and even small increases in funding and support could dramatically expand our ability to strengthen communities, foster belonging, and help create a more resilient Oregon for everyone. Another chance at funding could help us add material preparedness and stronger building infrastructure to the strong relational resilience that already exists, and I hope you'll agree that would be a powerful combination.

I urge you to support HB 3170 and invest in the kind of deep, relational resilience that makes Oregon stronger. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to serving our state.

Sincerely,
Ty Adams
Leaven Community Core Team Member