

Submitter: Angela Zehava

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 Angela Zehava and I live in Portland, OR (Sellwood) and I am writing because I am concerned about disaster preparedness in my city, especially during the Trump Administration—we cannot expect any help from the Feds for the next four years. 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: During the last big fire that came too close to Portland—we live in Sellwood, very near the Clackamas fire just South of us—we were barricaded in our house against the smoke—and I felt very alone. There didn't seem to be any source of up to the minute information. There was no advice—evacuate? Don't evacuate? Should our asthmatic son shelter in place or try to escape? If he should escape, which direction? How bad do they think it will get? We had no information whatsoever—we just huddled in one room with several air filters and scrolled what information there was.

Supposedly, we have a “hub” at the local middle school, but nothing was coming from there. Active hubs in times of crisis are very important. As it turned out, that fire was controlled before it reached our community, but what if it weren't? According to the fire map at the time, there didn't seem to be good routes of escape and there were rumors that certain areas were packed with families in cars, trying to escape.

Without centralized information in a large city like Portland, chaos reigns, and lives could be lost. I hope that more grant money is allocated, and that at least part of it is dedicated to creating a website with information specific to different cities/towns and neighborhood specific information for large cities, like Portland.

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

Sincerely,
Angela Zehava