

Submitter: Darlene Chirman, Portland Oregon
On behalf of: self

Committee: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Measure: HB3170

Date: February 3, 2025.

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Subject: In support of Resilience Hubs and Networks

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environments

My name is Darlene Chirman. I live in Portland Oregon and am an advocate for climate action and resilience. I am a former nurse and retired biologist. When I lived in Southern California, in a high fire hazard zone, I evacuated during several wildfires. My house survived a 1970 wildfire when 15 of my neighbors' houses burned in a neighborhood of 32 homes, surrounded by National Forest.

I urge you to support funding and some changes to the 2023 Resilience Hubs legislation, providing an additional \$10 million. During the first grant cycle there were over 700 applications, and only 96 were able to be funded; clearly there is a great need for this to protect Oregon residents.

I have read lists of what items can be covered by the grants. I urge you to include the option of air purifiers and solar systems and energy storage in grant applications. During wildfires, utilities are increasingly turning off power to protect against causing or worsening fires, appropriately. As a result, resilience hubs can provide life-saving services to individuals needing electrically-powered medical equipment, charging for phones and lanterns, and respite from wildfire smoke. During winter storms with power outages, resilience hubs can also provide warmth for our medically-compromised residents which can be life-saving, in addition to the above services.

Investments in Resilience Hubs and Networks can protect communities during extreme weather, wildfires, and other natural disasters. I urge you to support HB 3170. Sincerely, Darlene Chirman