

February 3, 2025

Dear Chair Lively, Vice–Chair Gamba, Vice–Chair Levy, members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy and Environment,

I was born and raised on a small farm in McMinnville, OR. I care immensely about the land where I grew up and I am passionate about building strong community structures to support my neighbors both in Yamhill County and across the state. My deep love for this place I call home is why I strongly support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

Over the past five years, I have breathed toxic wildfire smoke, felt the burn of 116+ degree temperatures and watched vibrant green fields turned brown due to increasingly dry summers. As communities across the state continue to face extreme weather events and worsening climate disasters, there is no better entity to support communities in times of crises than communities themselves. But this work cannot be done without strong support.

In order to care for their communities, local organizations across Oregon need more support. So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks has invested \$10 million in locally-driven, community-led efforts to prepare us for disaster. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 96 of them. It's clear that continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks is a necessary step to take in ensuring strong and healthy communities.

I am grateful for the impact that the initial funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks I urge you to support HB 3170 so Oregon can continue funding and building strong, resilient communities.

Sincerely,
Ukiah Halloran-Steiner
McMinnville, OR