

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

My name is Amanda Orozco, and I live in Gresham, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for HB 3170, which requests an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. While I have never personally experienced a major natural disaster like wildfires or extreme storms, I know that it is not impossible for me, my family, or my community to face one in the future. It's smart and necessary to be prepared for the unexpected, and that's why I believe in the importance of Resilience Hubs and Networks.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because, while my community has not yet faced a catastrophic disaster, we cannot ignore the reality that extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe. The devastating Los Angeles wildfires in January 2025 have shown us that when disaster strikes, we cannot rely on the federal government to come to our rescue. Time and time again, communities have been left to fend for themselves, waiting for relief that arrives too late or never comes at all. Oregon has a duty to protect its people, because if we don't invest in resilience now, no one else will do it for us. Resilience Hubs provide the resources, support networks, and emergency infrastructure that ensure our communities are prepared before disaster hits and supported in its aftermath. Beyond emergency response, these hubs strengthen long-term community resilience, offering services like mental health support and recovery assistance. We have the opportunity to take proactive steps to protect Oregonians before it's too late.

The initial \$10 million investment in Resilience Hubs has already begun making a difference in Oregon, supporting vital projects such as the establishment of six community resilience hubs in Lane County. These hubs are designed to provide respite and support during smoke events and natural disasters, offering resources and programming year-round to benefit community members. Additionally, organizations across Oregon are collaborating with over 50 groups and government agencies to build community resilience through hubs and networks that activate before, during, and after climate disasters. These initiatives not only save lives and reduce the burden on emergency responders but also help communities recover faster from disasters.

However, the need for continued funding is clear. In the last grant cycle, there were over 700 applications, but only 96 were funded. The demand for these resources shows how important it is to continue investing in this critical program.

I urge you to support HB 3170 so that we can continue to prepare all Oregon communities to withstand the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,
Amanda Orozco