

Submitter: John Seng  
On Behalf Of: Spark Northwest  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

Date: February 3, 2025

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Support for Resilience Hubs and Networks

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

My name is John Seng, I live in Portland, Oregon, and I am writing on behalf of Spark Northwest in support of HB 3170. Spark Northwest is a regional nonprofit that partners with communities on the front lines of the climate crisis to design and implement clean energy plans and projects. Our work with community-based organizations, municipalities, and Tribal Nations helps to build local resilience in the face of increasingly extreme weather.

In 2023 we testified in favor of the Resilience Hubs and Networks program, and we appreciate this Committee’s interest in continuing to support the program. Since then, Oregon has seen record-breaking wildfires, as well as more winter storms and heat waves. Resilience Hubs and Networks are already beginning to prevent death and catastrophe in remote and traditionally underserved communities where risks are highest.

The ongoing need for Resilience Hubs and Networks is abundantly clear. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications, but was only able to award 96 grants. We ask you now to pass HB 3170 and continue to fund the program, which will protect Oregonians statewide from the impacts of catastrophic wildfire, extreme heat, and winter storms.

Yours,

John Seng  
Policy Manager, Spark Northwest