



February 2, 2025

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

My name is Anahi Segovia Rodriguez, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Verde. I am writing as a concerned resident and advocate for community resilience. Verde strongly supports HB 3170, which proposes an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. As extreme weather events and wildfires increasingly impact Oregonians, it is imperative that all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to thrive, not just survive.

Verde support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because:

- **Experience with Extreme Weather:** In recent years, Oregon has faced unprecedented wildfires. The 2020 wildfires, for instance, destroyed more than 4,000 homes and burned over 1.1 million acres, resulting in nine fatalities. These events have directly affected my community, leading to evacuations and significant health impacts due to smoke inhalation.<sup>1</sup>
- **Community Aid During Crises:** During these wildfires, our communities came together to support those in need. Local organizations established temporary shelters, distributed essential supplies, and provided emotional support to displaced families. This grassroots mutual aid was crucial in addressing immediate needs and highlighted the importance of having structured Resilience Hubs to coordinate such efforts more effectively.
- **Potential Consequences of Inadequate Resources:** Without adequate funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks, communities may lack essential services during disasters, leading to prolonged recovery times, increased casualties, and greater economic losses. Investing in these hubs ensures that communities are better prepared to handle emergencies, reducing the overall impact of such events.

So far, the Resilience Hubs and Networks program has invested \$10 million in locally-driven, community-led efforts to prepare us for disasters. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 96 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding.<sup>2</sup>

These grants have empowered communities to repair buildings that serve as emergency shelters, purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles, and finance staff positions like nurses and outreach personnel. These investments save lives, assist first responders, expedite recovery, and benefit the communities that are hit first and worst by extreme weather, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

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<sup>1</sup> Hasenstab, Alex. "Lessons learned from 2020 helped Oregon avoid another fire disaster." Oregon Public Broadcasting, 13 Sept. 2022, <https://www.opb.org/article/2022/09/12/oregon-wildfire-management-prevention-emergency-management/>

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Department of Human Services. "Ten million in grant dollars help to create resilience in Oregon communities." Oregon.gov, 10 Apr. 2024, <https://apps.oregon.gov/oregon-newsroom/OR/ODHS/Posts/Post/ten-million-grant-dollars-help-create-resilience-oregon-communities>.

Verde urges you to support HB 3170 to continue building strong, resilient Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Anahi Segovia Rodriguez  
Energy Justice Coordinator  
Verde