

Submitter: Lucy Kennedy-Wong  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

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

My name is Lucy Kennedy-Wong, and I live in Portland, OR. I am writing because we need resiliency hubs in our state. Extreme weather events are becoming more and more frequent, and they are hitting those most vulnerable the hardest. We need resiliency hubs that are run by organizations already embedded in communities, who know what we need and how to support. When a climate emergency happens, or my power goes out in the winter (which it frequently does), it is my neighbors that I turn to. I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Extreme weather and wildfires continue to hurt Oregonians, and we must ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to thrive, not just survive.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because I have been stuck for days without any electricity, which means I had no heat or way to cook. I also don't own a car, so I had to slip my way to a bus that took extra long, in order to go get groceries. While I live in Portland, I think about others who live in more remote parts of the state, who are even further from grocery stores or heating shelters. They should be prioritized when it comes to this funding, so they have access to essential services.

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 69 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

These grants helped communities repair buildings that are emergency shelters, purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles; and financed staff positions like nurses and outreach staff. These investments will save lives, help first responders, speed recovery, and benefit the communities that are hit first and worst by extreme weather, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

I urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

Sincerely,  
Lucy  
Portland, OR