

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 Britney VanCitters, and I live in the Lents neighborhood of SE Portland and I am writing because my community is already feeling the impacts of extreme weather, and a community resilience hub could save lives. 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: [my neighborhood is consistently warmer](#) than the rest of the city due to the lack of tree canopy, and proximity to SE 82nd Ave and I-205. This leaves us vulnerable to extreme heat events like we experienced in 2021 and again in 2024. During the 2021 heat dome, [my neighborhood was one of the hottest areas in Portland](#) along with many east County communities.

Extreme weather in Oregon has continued steadily since the passing of this bill in 2023, including the 2024 [winter storm](#) and [heat wave](#). Not only that, but 2024 was [considered a record-breaking fire year](#) in Oregon. Continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks supports neighbors when they need a cool or warm place to stay, and when a wildfire, a heat wave, or another disaster strikes.

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,
Britney VanCitters
Portland, OR