

Submitter: Je Amaechi  
On Behalf Of: Unite Oregon  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

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

My name is Je Amaechi, and I am in House District 43. I am a member of my local Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) and the organizing director at Unite Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3170, because we need the critical funding offered through the Resilience Hubs and Networks grant program.

The urgency of this funding cannot be overstated. This year alone, we have witnessed the devastating impacts of climate change through the catastrophic floods in North Carolina and the devastating fires in Los Angeles. These events are not isolated incidents but rather a stark reminder that climate catastrophe is already here, affecting communities across the nation.

My father actually lives in Western North Carolina, the area that was severely affected by the recent floods. By the grace of God, his house remains standing, but many of his neighbors were not as fortunate. The floodwaters destroyed homes, displaced families, and left the community in dire need of support. His experience brought back vivid memories of my own experience with natural disasters.

When I was a college student in Florida, which was over 20 years ago (although you might not guess it because I know I look young), a hurricane hit and my house flooded. I lost everything. The emotional and financial toll was overwhelming, and it took years to recover. That experience brought the reality of natural disasters close to home for me and has fueled my passion for community resilience and preparedness ever since.

For the 10 years i've lived here, Oregon has faced its own series of severe disasters. The recent ice storms and the 2020 heat dome are fresh in our memories, reminding us of the ongoing and escalating risks our communities face. These events have shown us the critical need for preparedness and resilience, particularly as we anticipate the inevitability of 'the Big One'—a major Cascadia earthquake that could have catastrophic consequences for our region.

As a member of NET, I have seen firsthand the importance of community preparedness. NET team members are often deployed during weather emergencies, but our efforts were often hampered by a lack of resources and infrastructure.

The Resilience Hubs and Networks grant program has the potential to make a significant difference by providing the resources needed to build stronger, more resilient communities. By funding these hubs, we can ensure that communities have the tools and infrastructure they need to respond effectively to disasters.

HB 3170 is essential to continue this important work. By providing additional funding, we can support more communities in building resilience against the increasing threats of climate change. This investment will save lives, ensure underserved communities have access to vital resources, and reduce the burden on our emergency services.

I urge you to support HB 3170 and continue investing in the Resilience Hubs and Networks program. Our communities depend on it, and with your support, we can create a safer, more resilient Oregon for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Je Amaechi