

Testimony of Kyung Park, State Affairs Advisor
Testimony in support of HB 3170
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
February 3, 2025



Metro is the regional government for the greater Portland metropolitan area, tasked by Oregon statute with making decisions every six years about how and where the region will grow. Our region has a strong track record of supporting the core purposes of Oregon's statewide planning system – protecting farms and forests by facilitating efficient urban development, while providing additional room for people and jobs when needed by expanding the urban growth boundary.

Over recent years, Oregon has faced increasingly severe climate change-induced weather events that have profoundly impacted our communities. The 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave and the 2023 ice storm are stark examples, exposing thousands of Oregonians to life-and-death situations and tragically leading many to succumb to the effects of these extreme conditions. The impacts of these events are particularly devastating for our most vulnerable communities, who often lack the resources and support to adapt and survive.

Over the past two years, Metro's Social Innovation Program has engaged in extensive consultations with community stakeholders to better understand the barriers to building resilient and thriving communities. These discussions highlighted community resilience hubs as a top priority, underscoring their crucial role in helping communities withstand and adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change.

Community resilience hubs are proven and effective platforms to address these urgent challenges. Hubs are vital for building resilience to climate risks such as extreme heat, poor air quality, economic vulnerabilities, and displacement risks. They help address inequities in resource distribution while providing a centralized, trusted space for communities to turn to during emergencies—emergencies that are increasingly likely to become more frequent and severe.

Beyond crisis response, resilience hubs maintain a year-round presence, acting as vibrant, community-designed spaces that foster trust and connection. They offer essential services such as food pantries, gathering and training spaces, information center, childcare, and community gardens—tailored to the unique needs of each community.

Despite their proven effectiveness and immense potential, funding for community resilience hubs remains inadequate.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support HB 3170. This funding represents a vital investment in the safety, resilience, and well-being of Oregon's communities.

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration of this critical issue.