

February 3rd, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Re: Support for House Bill 3170



Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Committee Members,

ROSE Community Development urges your support of House Bill 3170, which addresses the escalating climate crisis and our urgent need for building community resilience. It is ROSE's mission to connect our community to build good homes, healthy families and neighborhood opportunities in outer southeast Portland, and one of our core values is to go beyond housing development to address intersectional issues. The addition of Resilience Networks and Resilience Hubs in the east part of Portland would bring significant positive change to the way our underserved neighborhoods can engage with one another before, during, and after natural or climate disasters.

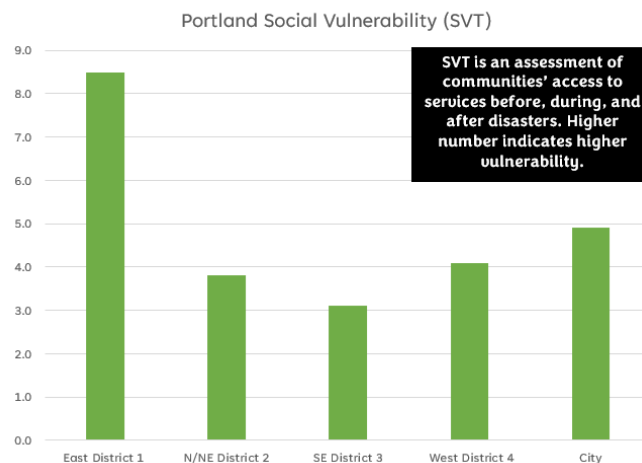
With the increasing unpredictability of federal funding sources and frequency of extreme weather events, feelings of fear and hopelessness are being normalized especially for those who live in more vulnerable communities. The chart below, taking from data in the city's demographic profiles, shows how vulnerable East Portland is compared to the rest of the city.

East Portland is most vulnerable

East Portlanders are significantly more likely to suffer from events such as pandemics, heat waves, and earthquakes

Dr. Vivek Shandas of Portland State University determined that the "hottest place in Portland" was in Lents near I-205 and Foster

East Portland fared worse in the 2008 foreclosure crisis, the Covid pandemic, and the June 2021 "heat dome"



In all of East Portland, there is only one cooling shelter for relief in the Summer and while it provides an essential resource for our unhoused population, it is not family friendly. We need support for a Resilience Hub in East Portland. For a community that speaks at least 102 languages, has a multitude of ethnicities, and a large unhoused population, it is imperative that HB 3170 be equitable in its approach to funding climate and community resilience initiatives.

Please vote yes on HB 3170 and advocate for funding priorities on behalf of our most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Ana Meza

Co-Executive Director

Nick Sauvie

Co-Executive Director