



February 4, 2024

To: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Re: Support for HB 3170, Resilience Hubs and Networks

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 3170** and continued investment for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations. Our mission includes addressing the socioeconomic disparities experienced by individuals, families, and communities of color; and to engage in collective action for social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice, and prosperity.

Over the past several years, communities throughout Oregon have experienced ice storms that have left them without power for hours, or even days, wildfires that have destroyed entire neighborhoods, and record-breaking heat waves that were fatal to those without air conditioning. We have heard directly from community members about how they have managed through events such as extreme heat - many shared that they did not have air conditioning in their homes, or were too worried about the cost impact of turning them on. And many people stayed with friends or family who did have AC, demonstrating the importance of strong community networks.

As these events become more frequent and more intense, it is becoming increasingly urgent for communities to have somewhere safe to go when disaster strikes. Resilience Hubs and Networks supports neighbors with a place to cool down or warm up, receive information and resources, have access to clean water and a place to charge their phones, or stay during an emergency evacuation.

CCC believes that in order to truly be resilient, communities must have access to the services and resources necessary for their health and well-being. Resilience Hubs and Networks allows communities to design the Hubs in a way that serves their specific needs, including mental health resources after a disaster or preparedness before one.

Investing in Resilience Hubs now ensures that low-income, communities of color, and those most impacted by our rapidly changing climate can be prepared to withstand the next disaster. The high demand for these grants in the last funding cycle demonstrates the immediate need for the community-driven approach to disaster preparedness provided by this program.

We urge you to support HB 3170 and the continued investment in Resilience Hubs and Networks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Daryanani".

Nikita Daryanani
Climate and Energy Policy Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color