



February 4, 2025

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill House Bill 3170

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 40,000 supporters statewide.

The ACLU of Oregon strongly supports House Bill 3170, which would 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.

Oregon’s emergency management services are stretched thin. Across the state, people of color, low-income, rural, and disabled communities are hit hardest in times of disaster.¹ This disparity in impact arises because of the inequities that pre-exist these crises. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 96 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

Community resilience hubs, which provide day-to-day services, community spaces, and “activate” in times of crisis, help remediate these inequities and mitigate the disproportionate harm that might otherwise befall vulnerable Oregon communities. 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.

The continued support of these hubs represents an efficient, forward thinking consolidation of resources, as we proactively build and support communities that can withstand disasters. House Bill 3170 is an important continued step for equity and disaster preparedness in Oregon. **The ACLU of Oregon urges you to pass House Bill 3170 out of committee.**

Respectfully,

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¹ Kelly Anne Smith, How Communities of Color Are Hurt Most by Climate Change, Forbes, January 7, 2021, <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/communities-of-color-and-climate-change/>.

