



OREGON STATE SENATE

Testimony of Senator Khanh Pham

In Support of HB 3170 – Oregon Resilience Hubs and Networks
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
February 4, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Khanh Pham, and I am honored to represent Senate District 23 in Northeast and Southeast Portland. I am here today in strong support of HB 3170, which renews funding for Oregon’s Resilience Hubs and Networks Grant Program—a program I was proud to champion in 2023 to ensure our communities are better prepared for climate disasters.

Extreme weather has not slowed down since we first passed this program. 2024 was a record-breaking year for wildfires, followed by extreme winter storms and heat waves. Damages from natural disasters have increased exponentially this decade, to over \$4 billion. The reality is clear: disasters are increasing, and we must act now to protect Oregonians.

These disasters are not felt equally—low-income communities, BIPOC communities, and rural areas face greater risks and fewer resources to respond. In my own district, residents in Lents, one of Portland’s hottest neighborhoods, had the highest concentration of residents who lost their lives to extreme heat in the 2021 heat dome event. In 2021, Multnomah County recorded 72 heat-related deaths. We cannot allow this to happen again.

I’m really delighted to see that the original funding has been so successful, and it’s clear it’s tapped into a real need, with over 700 community organizations across the state applying for these funds, and sadly we could only fund less than 1 in 10 of these applications.

Resilience Hubs are designed by and for the communities they serve, providing life-saving support before, during, and after climate emergencies. They serve different roles in different communities—some provide cooling and warming shelters, others serve as emergency relief centers for wildfire evacuations, and many offer mental health and recovery services after a disaster. These hubs ensure that when crises hit, people have somewhere to go and a community to rely on.



KHANH PHAM
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23

HB 3170 ensures that when the next wildfire, heat wave, or other disaster strikes, our communities are better organized. We cannot wait until the next crisis to act. By renewing this funding, we invest in stronger, more connected communities that can weather whatever comes next.

I urge your support for HB 3170 and the continuation of Oregon's Resilience Hubs and Networks. Thank you so much.