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House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3170 – Support

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3170. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is a land use and conservation advocacy organization that has protected Central Oregon’s forests, high desert, rivers, wildlife, and communities for more than 35 years. LandWatch recognizes that fire is a natural and regular phenomenon on our landscape and that strengthening our ability to withstand wildfire threats is essential to creating a livable future in Central Oregon.

The summer of 2024 saw record-breaking wildfire activity across Oregon, and Central Oregon was no exception. From the Mile Marker 132 Fire, which threatened my home in Northeast Bend, to the Darlene 3 Fire, which forced thousands of La Pine residents to evacuate, extreme weather was a constant challenge. The wildfire season even extended into late October, with the Pine Fire and Little Lava Fire threatening thousands of structures, closing Mt. Bachelor, and raining flecks of ash down on the City of Bend. Unfortunately, there is no indication that 2025 will be any easier.

For these reasons, LandWatch supports HB 3170. This bill would allocate an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Resilience hubs are community-run spaces that provide emergency resources, backup power, communication support, and relief services during crises. These hubs, located in libraries, community centers, faith-based institutions, and other accessible sites, serve as vital lifelines during disasters. In the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications but was only able to fund 96—highlighting the urgent need for continued investment in these critical resources.

As extreme weather and wildfires increasingly impact Oregonians, it is crucial that the legislature proactively invests in community resilience.

LandWatch respectfully urges this Committee to support HB 3170.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Robin Hayakawa
Associate Staff Attorney
Central Oregon LandWatch



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE