



February 4, 2025

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

RE: Support for House Bill 3170, Relating to the modification of the definitions of and grant requirements for Resilience Hubs and Resilience Networks.

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and other members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, I support HB 3170, which seeks to strengthen community resilience in Oregon by continuing to allocate a further \$10 million for this program. These funds would be directed towards providing services for our communities that are most vulnerable to extreme weather conditions and wildfire. As Oregon faces increasing climate-driven disasters, including record-breaking wildfires, extreme heat waves, and severe winter storms, we must continue to invest in community-based solutions that protect lives, reduce harm, and build long-term resilience.

The need for this funding is clear. **In the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications but could only fund 69 projects, leaving \$173 million in vital community resilience initiatives unfunded.** This gap leaves many communities, particularly rural and frontline communities, without the necessary resources to prepare for and withstand future disasters. HB 3170 ensures that more people will have access to the tools and support they need to navigate climate emergencies safely.

The services these funds would continue to provide are critical lifelines for communities across Oregon. These hubs provide essential services before, during, and after climate disasters, ensuring people have access to cooling and warming shelters, emergency resources, and mental health support. They are designed by and for the communities they serve, helping residents adapt to the growing impacts of climate change while strengthening local response capacity.

Sierra Club Oregon supports HB 3170 because investments in Resilience Hubs and Grants will:

1. Save lives by providing safe spaces and emergency resources during extreme weather events.
2. Increase equity by prioritizing communities that are traditionally underserved and most vulnerable to disasters.
3. Support first responders by reducing strain on emergency services during crises.
4. Mitigate property damage by fostering better preparedness and response measures.

Sierra Club Oregon recognizes that the climate crisis all too often disproportionately impacts frontline communities such as people of color, low-income, rural, and disabled communities. Funding for community resilience aligns with our mission by ensuring that those most affected by climate disasters have the resources and support they need to withstand and recover from extreme weather events.

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Investing in community resilience is an essential step toward bridging the gap between environmental action and equitable solutions that protect all of those that live in the state.

Oregon's communities are already stepping up to protect their neighbors, but they need continued support to sustain and expand these efforts. I strongly urge you to support HB 3170 and invest in the resilience and well-being of Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,

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