



February 4, 2025

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted Via Online Portal

RE: Strong Support for HB 3170

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

Columbia Riverkeeper supports HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. As Columbia Riverkeeper’s Advocacy Director, and as resident of Clackamas County, I can attest to the fact that 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.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because HB 3170 will pave the way for Oregon to make progress in addressing the significant risks posed to the environment and human health by changing climate conditions and the economic hardship caused by emergencies and dislocating events, such as ice storms, wildfires, and wind events.

Up and down the River, throughout the Columbia Basin, the region finds better solutions to these problems when community voices are heard, first and loudest. HB 3170 provides tangible benefits to communities across the state.

- Extreme weather in Oregon has continued steadily since the passing of this bill in 2023, including the 2024 [winter storm](#) and [heat wave](#). Not only that, but 2024 was [considered a record-breaking fire year](#) in Oregon. Continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks

supports neighbors when they need a cool or warm place to stay, and when a wildfire, a heat wave, or another disaster strikes. In the last several years, my family and community have experienced intense impacts that have strained the physical and mental health of my friends, family members, colleagues, and neighbors.

- Resilience hubs are designed by and for the communities they serve. In some places hubs may be places to cool down during extreme heat, while in others, hubs may provide emergency beds for wildfire evacuations. I am grateful for the people who are willing to put in the work of making these important services available in times of need. I have been helped by information and the knowledge of this fabric of community resiliency, and all Oregonians could benefit by the ideas and work supported in this bill.
- There's a huge need for this funding all across Oregon. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 69 of them. That means \$173 million worth of community resilience projects went unfunded. This is true in the communities in which we work. There are unmet needs in community health, safety, and overall resiliency that could benefit from passage of this bill.
- Clean water is a vital resource for our communities. Passage of this bill will assist people in accessing clean water. We are grateful that people are planning to fill this critical need.

We appreciate and respect the Committee's hard work on this issue and for taking the time in a busy session to put this forward. I urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Dan Serres, Advocacy Director, Columbia Riverkeeper