

Date: February 4th, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Subject: Support for Resilience Hubs and Networks

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

My name is Alijana Fisher and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I've seen firsthand the devastating impacts of climate change in my almost three decades on this Earth. Unseasonable dry and hot weather results in huge and unchecked wildfires sweeping through the state every summer. Heatwaves and ice storms have worsened presenting serious challenges for communities, especially those already most vulnerable to extreme weather. This is not a distant problem. It's happening right now in our state. I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. We must ensure all communities can access the resources they need to thrive, not just survive.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because:

1. I attended Willamette University in Salem. My senior year was ravaged not only by the COVID-19 pandemic but a horrible ice storm. My housemates and I were without power for 14 days in frigid temperatures. That same year I woke one morning and thought the apocalypse was beginning due to the bright red skies filled with wildfire smoke! Communities need resources during these times.

So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks have invested \$10 million in locally-driven, community-led efforts to prepare us for disaster. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 69 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

These grants helped communities repair buildings that are emergency shelters, purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles, and finance staff positions like nurses and outreach staff. 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.

I urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Alijana Fisher

Milwaukie, Oregon