

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 Suzanne Veaudry Casaus, and I live in Portland, OR. I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 3170**, which would provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. I believe we have a responsibility to address the growing climate crisis and protect the people of Oregon from its devastating impacts.

For many years, I had the privilege of traveling the state with the late Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, educating students and community groups about the imminent effects of climate change on Oregon. Unfortunately, what was once a warning is now our reality. Wildfires are more frequent and intense, heatwaves are breaking records, and communities across the state are struggling to adapt.

I will never forget June 28, 2021—the day Portland reached **116 degrees**. My child, working in an ice cream shop in the NE Alberta neighborhood, suffered from heat exhaustion so severe that a neighbor had to intervene, cooling them down with ice to prevent serious harm. This was not an isolated incident. Events like these are becoming more common, putting the health, safety, and livelihoods of Oregonians at risk.

Resilience Hubs and Networks provide a **critical lifeline** for communities facing these challenges. They are community-driven spaces that offer essential resources during crises—whether as cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters during wildfires, or hubs for disaster response and recovery. Investing in resilience is not just about preparing for the next emergency; it is about strengthening our communities so that we can **survive and thrive** in the face of climate change.

So far, Oregon has invested \$10 million in these **locally-led, community-driven efforts**, helping to save lives, support first responders, and assist those who are most vulnerable to climate disasters. But we must **do more**. HB 3170 will ensure that we continue building the resources, infrastructure, and networks needed to keep Oregonians safe.

I urge you to **support HB 3170** and help us create stronger, more resilient communities. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Oregon’s future.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Veaudry Casaus

Portland, Oregon