



American Planning Association  
**Oregon Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

February 4, 2025

TO: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of House Bill 3170

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3170 related to updating and providing grant funding for resilience hubs and resilience networks in Oregon program that was created in the 2023 Session. Climate-change related disasters in Oregon have increased in frequency and intensity — taking a heavy toll on human lives, property, infrastructure, and the power grid — and locally planned resilience hubs and networks are a proven effective approach to protect community health communities and prioritize resilience.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

Our support for HB 3170 follows from OAPA's legislative priority to support legislation that confronts climate change with actions that help Oregon's communities prepare for, adapt to, and become more resilient to its impacts, while addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change on vulnerable community members.

The current program has invested \$10 million in community-driven and led efforts to establish resilience hubs and resilience networks and our members have seen its value in providing needed resources and structure for community members to prepared and respond to climate-driven and other disasters and emergencies. That during the last grant cycle, the State received 700 applications and was able to fund 96 of them, shows the need to continue funding this grant program.

OAPA also supports the text amendments and especially the updating of the resilience network definition by add "that collectively supports community members to prepare for, adapt to or respond to social, emotional and physical disruption generated by ongoing climate change or other causes, and during and after an adverse event, emergency or disaster."

OAPA offers these additional comments to prioritize grants:

- That help vulnerable populations and communities adapt to impacts from climate change ensuring that they understand how the hub and network can benefit them before, during and after a major disruption.
- That recognize the role and needed expertise of local health, emergency management, planning, public works, housing, transportation, sustainability, and general services agencies.
- That result in the distribution of the grants to serve all parts of Oregon — its rural, coastal, tribal and urban areas.

Local communities, throughout Oregon, are on the frontlines of the unique challenges faced with more frequent and severe extreme weather and grid outages and the impacts of wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, flooding and slope instability. Resilience hubs and resilience networks are one way they can tangibly protect all residents with community-focused solutions that support a safer, more sustainable, and more connected future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Jonathan Harker**

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee  
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association  
[www.oregonapa.org](http://www.oregonapa.org)