

Submitter: Ken Bonetti

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

Date: February 3, 2025 To: House Committee on Energy and Environment Subject: Support for Resilience Hubs and Networks, HB 3170 Dear Chair Lively, Vice–Chair Gamba, Vice–Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

My name is Ken Bonetti of North Bend, Oregon. I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Regardless of where in the country one lives the need for Community hubs and networks is clear and that need is exponentially increasing with the acceleration of extreme weather events due to climate disruption. Although in my short time in Oregon I have not been directly affected by a natural disaster, I've witnessed many Oregonians impacted by excessive heat, wildfires and localized flooding.

I recently arrived from Colorado where we experienced numerous disasters in the form of wildfires, massive flooding and ever-present wildfire air pollution. Those conditions are what induced us to leave Colorado for the Oregon coast as my wife's health had been most immediately affected by ever-present wildfire smoke. However, we have simply exchanged vulnerability to one set of natural and climate-induced hazards for others such as excessive heat, intensified Pacific storms, sea level rise and possible tsunamis. North Bend is a rather poor community lacking adequate local resources to deal with extreme events should they arise. Funding for resilience hubs and regional networking will be a big help to this community.

So why extend funding? Obviously, better local preparedness will save lives should an extreme event occur by providing residents, particularly traditionally underrepresented populations, with more and equitable access to necessary information and resources. Funding will also help first responders to better prioritize their actions as individuals will be in a better position to respond to events, work together to cooperatively deal with impacts and become more resilient.

So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks has 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 96 of those, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding. Now is the time to act and to continue investing in our communities for enhanced strength and resilience.

These grants helped communities provide emergency shelters, purchase satellite

phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, emergency vehicles; and emergency and recovery staff positions. Further investments will save additional lives, assist 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 for our communities.

Sincerely,
Ken Bonetti
North Bend, Oregon