

Submitter: Brad Reed
On Behalf Of: Building Resilience
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

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

I am the Campaign Director of Building Resilience, a statewide coalition campaign of more than 50 organizations– representing climate justice and public health, business and labor, faith and frontline communities, environmental, family, and youth organizations, and thousands of individual Oregonians.

We support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. The Resilience Hubs and Networks grant program supports neighbors when they need a cool or warm place to stay, and when a wildfire, a heat wave, or another disaster strikes. There’s a huge need for additional funding because extreme weather in Oregon has continued steadily since the passing of this bill in 2023. In 2024, Oregonians faced a winter storm in January and a heat wave in May. It was considered a record-breaking fire year in Oregon.

Our coalition works to help Oregonians upgrade their homes and buildings to be more resilient and our first line of defense against weather extremes brought on by climate change. We also recognize this transformation will take time and additional, immediate measures like Resilience Hubs are crucial to health, safety, and life for people during disaster.

In 2023, this vital grant program invested \$10 million in community-led efforts to prepare us for disaster. During the last grant cycle, the state was only able to fund 96 out of 700 applications, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding.

During the Labor Day wildfires of 2020, as the evacuation zones crept closer and closer to where I lived, the climate crisis became more personal than ever. I had friends who live in Clackamas County who had to leave their homes and hope the flames didn’t reach them. Most had to go to the convention center in Portland as a makeshift emergency shelter.

Our coalition supports HB 3170 because all Oregon communities should have plans and a place to go in the event of an emergency. I urge you to vote Yes on HB 3170 to invest in building stronger communities, and to create the resources to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes. Stronger communities can make the difference between simply surviving and thriving in the wake of disaster.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed
Building Resilience