



Jackson County Community Long-Term Recovery Group

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February 3, 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:

As the Executive Director of the Jackson County Community Long-Term Recovery Group (JCC LTRG), I am writing because our organization has held the recovery of our community from the devastating 2020 Almeda and South Obenchain fires. We have convened more than 100 public, private, non-profit, community- and faith-based organizations in service to bringing our neighbors home. Our tireless efforts have provided the connective engagement that has created actionable and timely information that state agencies have relied on to allocate resources and determine state and federal resource requests.

I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Extreme weather and wildfires continue to hurt Oregonians, and we must ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to thrive, not just survive.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because all disasters start and end at the local level. Support for local, on-the-ground convening and coordination is increasingly important as extreme weather events impact our region more and more frequently. In communities with established and funded long-term recovery groups (LTRGs) and community organizations active in disaster (COADs)—two best practices outlined by FEMA, Red Cross, and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster:

- Response to individual and household needs is faster, more efficient, less costly, and more effective.

Building on the lessons of recovery to weave an equitable, inclusive, and responsive disaster services network through collaboration, convening, and advocacy

- Local relationships are leveraged appropriately to support recovery, creating more apparent lanes and lines of communication and reducing costs significantly.
- Preparedness efforts ensure that local, community-based organizations are able to maintain operations until additional resources and support are available.

So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks funding 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 could only fund 69 projects, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. This funding has largely prioritized tangible items to ensure money could get out the door, given significant delays due to the administering agency needing to respond to the 2024 climate events: drought, fires, flooding, extreme heat, etc.

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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caryn Wheeler Clay". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Caryn Wheeler Clay