

Submitter: Stefanie Holloway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

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

My name is Stefanie Holloway, and I live in La Grande, Oregon. I am writing as part of a group of neighbors and community leaders in Union County seeking to develop a robust network of hyper-local community resilience hubs. I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Extreme weather and wildfires continue to negatively impact Oregonians, and we must ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to survive and thrive into the future. I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because:

The Eastern Oregon wildfires of Summer 2024 were a stark reminder of our vulnerability. While La Grande was spared, the nearby Cow Valley fire burned over 132,000 acres. The sight of smoke-filled skies and the knowledge that our neighbors were losing their homes and ranches impacted all of us across our Eastern Oregon community. This experience motivated efforts to prepare for future disasters and to be better equipped to help one another in the likely event that this happens again.

The Resilience Hubs and Networks Grant could significantly impact Union County. This funding would allow us to establish well-equipped community centers serving as emergency gathering points, providing essential resources and support. These hubs would also strengthen our community's ability to face crises and foster stronger community connections year-round.

The initial \$10 million investment in this program has already demonstrated its value and necessity. These grants have funded essential improvements, including emergency shelter repairs, communication equipment, power sources, water systems, and key personnel. Such investments are critical for saving lives, aiding first responders, and supporting communities most vulnerable to natural disasters. With over 700 applications received and only 96 funded in the last cycle, the demand for such support is clear. Supporting HB 3170 is crucial for continuing to build resilient communities across Oregon. Thank you for your consideration of this and for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Holloway  
La Grande, Oregon