



January 31, 2025

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

My name is Joel Iboa. I live in Eugene, and I am founding executive director of Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA), a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation. Our organization supports HB 3170, which provides an additional \$10 million to fund Resilience Hubs and Networks, a grant program that helps Oregonians prepare against disasters like extreme heat and wildfires.

In 2023, OJTA and Community Resilience Hubs and Networks coalition of over 50 organizations from rural, coastal, eastern, and metro Oregon successfully worked to create Resilience Hubs and Networks to deliver Oregonians the supplies and services needed to withstand disaster. In 2024, we continued our leadership on community resilience by working with the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) on rulemaking to clarify and sharpen program implementation.

The 2023 bill was a bipartisan success that delivered \$10 million to communities for critical resources like basic medical supplies, water purification systems, and emergency communications equipment, as well as funds for services like CERT training. During the first grant cycle, the state funded less than 100 of the 700 applications received. The stark amount of unfunded applications illustrates the need for additional funding. Without it, thousands of Oregonians will be left defenseless against ongoing heat waves, wildfires, and disasters that don't wait.

An additional \$10 million in Resilience Hubs and Networks funding will make communities in every corner of the state more resilient. We urge you to move House Bill 3170 forward.

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa
Executive Director
Oregon Just Transition Alliance