

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

My name is Bryan Trenkle and I live in Roseburg, Oregon. I am the Executive Director of Greater Douglas United Way and I am writing because, as a grantee of the first \$10 million disbursement, I am beyond grateful. This funding is extremely important in helping build resiliency throughout our community. The first \$10 million was the largest pool of funds with the fewest strings attached, coming from any state or federal stream that I have ever witnessed. The flexibility that this allows is unimaginable...and greatly appreciated! Allocating dollars is never an easy task...but it was done well by the entire team! And, allocating dollars to foster stronger, connected communities is extremely important for our entire state...and they will truly have a transformative impact at the foundational level, statewide.

I fully 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. With the \$80,000 received through the first round of funding from this Resiliency Hubs Grant, Greater Douglas United Way is building up resiliency throughout our community by re-establishing and strengthening our local COAD, focusing on community preparedness, as well as revitalizing our CERT team.

Our focus is to educate and train our local communities within Douglas County through outreach, community conversations, town hall meetings and trainings, enhancing our community's disaster preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities through effective strategic coordination and resource sharing between outlying rural residents, to neighborhoods and large commerce business continuity planning. The objective of our project is to strengthen the ability of our 33 communities and the rural areas in between, to effectively respond to and recover from disasters or emergencies.

Through the funding provided with this award, we aim to address gaps in preparedness, increase community engagement, build the capacity of local organizations to support our 112,000+ citizens in Douglas County (SW Oregon). Many communities, particularly underserved and high-risk areas, face challenges in effectively preparing for and recovering from emergencies. Limited resources, lack of awareness, and insufficient infrastructure hinder their ability to respond to natural and man-made disasters. So, we hope to address these concerns.

Expected outcomes and impacts:

1 - Increased Preparedness: Communities will have improved disaster response plans, better access to resources, and enhanced skills to handle emergencies.

2 - Enhanced Resilience: Communities will develop stronger networks, fostering collaboration between residents, local authorities, and organizations. 3 - Sustained Capacity: Local organizations will be better equipped to provide long-term support, ensuring ongoing community resilience.

4 - Improved Public Awareness: Residents will gain a deeper understanding of the risks they face and the actions they can take to protect themselves.

Ultimately, this project aims to reduce vulnerability and improve the ability of our communities to withstand and recover from future crises. So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks have 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 69 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

These grants helped communities repair buildings that are emergency shelters, purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles; and financed staff positions like nurses and outreach staff. These investments will save lives, help 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 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

With gratitude,

Bryan Trenkle  
Executive Director  
Greater Douglas United Way  
Roseburg, Oregon