

Submitter: Veronika Nunez
On Behalf Of: Adelante Mujeres
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 Verónica Núñez, and I am the Director of Leadership and Advocacy at Adelante Mujeres, a nonprofit organization based in Forest Grove, Oregon. For over 20 years, Adelante Mujeres has been dedicated to empowering Latina women and their families through education, leadership development, and community advocacy. More than 80% of our staff identifies as Latina, giving us a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the communities we serve. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3170, which provides an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Extreme weather events, wildfires, and other climate-related disasters continue to disproportionately impact Oregonians, particularly marginalized communities. It is critical that we ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need not only to survive but to thrive. As someone who immigrated to the United States over two decades ago, I understand the challenges of navigating a new environment, especially during times of crisis. Shortly after moving to Oregon in 2001, I experienced a minor earthquake that left me disoriented and fearful, unsure of where to turn for safety or support. This experience highlighted the importance of having accessible, culturally relevant spaces where communities can come together during emergencies.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because:

1. They provide safe, welcoming spaces for families, particularly during emergencies, where they can access resources and support in a culturally relevant way.
2. They strengthen community bonds. In the face of wildfires, extreme heat, and other disasters, these hubs foster collaboration and mutual aid, ensuring that no one is left behind.
3. They promote resilience and well-being. By reducing stress and anxiety during crises, these hubs empower communities to recover more quickly and thrive in the long term.

So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks have invested \$10 million in locally driven, community-led efforts to prepare for disasters. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications but was only able to fund 69, demonstrating the overwhelming need for continued funding.

These grants have supported critical projects, including:

- Repairing buildings to serve as emergency shelters.
- Purchasing essential equipment like satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles.
- Funding staff positions such as nurses and outreach workers to ensure communities have the support they need during crises. These investments save lives, assist first responders, speed recovery, and benefit the communities hit first and worst by extreme weather and natural disasters.

I urge you to support HB 3170 to continue building strong, resilient Oregon communities. By investing in Resilience Hubs and Networks, we can ensure that all Oregonians have the resources and connections they need to face future disasters with confidence.

Sincerely, Verónica Núñez
Director of Leadership and Advocacy
Adelante Mujeres
Forest Grove, Oregon