



Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair B. Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter in support of HB3170 which continues funding for community Resilience Hubs and Resilience Networks, and makes technical fixes based on lessons learned in the first round to improve implementation and allow for projects that respond to ongoing disasters.

As an organization which advocates for climate justice and public health, we recognize that traditionally underserved and more remote communities are often hit the hardest by a crisis while having the least access to support services during it. HB3170 helps remedy this disparity.

As members of the Portland community, we are well aware that many lives were saved by the designated cooling centers and extended library hours that Multnomah County opened¹ during the 2021 heat dome. Yet 96 people in Oregon still died— additional accessible spaces were needed. This past July, sixteen Oregonians² died from the extreme heat. Additional funding for resilience hubs and networks, designed by communities for their communities, will save lives during extreme heat, winter storms, wildfire, floods, and other climate events. Resilience hubs and networks also improve outcomes when they are able to provide mental health services, places to heal, and connections after disasters.

During the last grant cycle, only 69 of 700 applications for community resilience projects were funded. In 2024, Oregonians continued to endure weather made more extreme by global warming: another heat wave, an extreme winter storm³, and a record-breaking fire season.

HB3170 would help meet some of that unmet need to help neighbors help neighbors. Please pass it.

Sincerely,

Amanda Duncan
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

¹ <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/06/25/portland-multnomah-county-extreme-heat-cooling-centers/>

²

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/heat-deaths-oregon-multnomah-county-wave/283-9e22d26a-3fdf-4ef3-9b07-25f6863d5781>

³ <https://www.koin.com/weather/initial-report-finds-72-million-in-damage-from-oregons-arctic-blast/> ;
<https://www.woodwellclimate.org/new-study-arctic-warming-severe-cold-spells/>