

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

Dear House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I am writing to support HB3170 which would provide \$10 million in funding for Community Resilience Hubs and Resilience Networks and make improvements to the program based on lessons learned in the first round.

I recently moved to Portland but previously was part of the South Tillamook County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team): one of the first things I learned in my CERT training was that in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone event my community, according to FEMA, could be cut off from the rest of Oregon and regular supplies for up to 3 months. While other disasters are likely less isolating, we face them more regularly, and the approximately 1.5 degrees of global warming industrialized society has caused the world is increasing the destructiveness of wildfires and other extreme weather events.

Community preparation is essential to save lives and improve outcomes by giving people a place to heal and connect to other resources. The \$10 million investment in community resilience hubs -- developed by communities for their communities -- is one of the best investments you can make.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Helena Birecki