



February 4th, 2025

To: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

RE: Oregon House Bill 3170 - Community Resilience Hubs & Networks

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3170. My name is David De La Torre (he/him), I am a Eugene resident and the Climate Resilience & Environmental Justice Manager at Unite Oregon.

Unite Oregon is led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty. We work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice. We are a movement of over 5,000 members across the state and are engaged in climate and environmental justice issues that are foremost in our communities. **I am here today representing Unite Oregon to urge you to support HB 3170 providing additional funding to help strengthen communities across the state in times of disasters and towards a better future.**

In the summer of 2022, we engaged frontline communities, that is people who experience the impacts of climate change first and worst, through deep listening sessions and received hundreds of comments regarding issues and solutions on climate justice. People across the state have expressed the importance of building community resilience, especially to wildfires and extreme weather events. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are often more susceptible to climate impacts. The need for resilience is vast and since the listening sessions, we applied to grants in the Rouge Valley - an area where community members are still recovering from the 2020 fires, and initiated work to build resilience in Central and Southern Oregon through a federally funded grant.

However, communities today are looking at some uncertain times with regards to federal funding support for disaster resilience in the midst of continued increase and frequency of climate related disasters. It is therefore imperative that our state leads in investing in the wellbeing and safety of communities. We know that during times of crisis, neighbors and community members do a lot of the heavy lifting in providing essential support and information to one another. That is why investing in the development of these relationships through resilience hubs and networks can go a long way to address the impact of disasters. We need to make the budget more sustainable as



we continue to invest in the people and communities who will be there before, during, and after individual disasters. We are investing now for a higher impact in future times of disasters.

Additionally, this bill would also help increase resilience to those traditionally underserved and in the more remote areas and regions of our state that have the least access to support services during a crisis. This budget request bill will continue the efforts from 2023 that organizations led for the passage of community resilience hubs. Now in 2025, the work continues more than ever. I thus urge you to support HB 3170 providing \$10 million dollars in funding to help strengthen communities across the state.

Sincerely,

David De La Torre (he/him)
Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice Manager
Unite Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David De La Torre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.