

Submitter: Blanca Gutierrez
On Behalf Of: Rogue Climate
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3170

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Blanca Gutierrez, and I am the leadership development and cultural director at Rogue Climate. I submit this testimony on behalf of Rogue Climate in support of House Bill 3170, Community Resilience Hubs. Rogue Climate is a climate justice nonprofit in Phoenix and Coos Bay, Oregon. We helped organize and manage mutual aid fire relief centers after the Almeda Fire in 2020, where we served hundreds of fire-affected people every day.

The fires were one of the scariest things that's ever happened to me. Fires and smoke filled the sky, but no one knew exactly where to go for help. Now, whenever the wind picks up, my community feels deep anxiety about another disaster. I support more funding for Community Resilience Hubs because everyone deserves the resources to recover.

Resilience Hubs and Networks serve communities on a day-to-day basis, and are equipped to activate during disruptions like wildfires or extreme weather. With added funding, communities can provide clean water, food, childcare, and medical supplies during times of need.

After the Almeda fires, Rogue Climate and our partners organized a Fire Relief Center that operated a lot like a hub. Despite our success, we desperately needed more supplies and support, like refrigeration and FEMA application help. We are grateful to be one of few applicants to receive funding, which will help us fill in those gaps.

But, there are Oregonians out there who still need help. Extreme weather and wildfires continue to hurt Oregonians, and we must ensure all communities have access to resources and networks, especially low-income, rural, communities of color, children, people with disabilities, and people living outside, who are hit hardest in times of disaster. That's why we urge you to support HB 3170 and continue funding Resilience Hubs and Networks.

Thank you,
Blanca Gutierrez