



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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February 5, 2025

To: Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

From: Sarah Wochele, Equity Analyst & Advocate, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)

Re: Support for HB 3170 - Community Resilience Hubs

CUB is a membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that represents the interests of utility consumers, including energy and telecommunications customers, before legislative, administrative and judicial bodies. **We submit this testimony to ask for your support for HB 3170.**

While extreme weather events worsen each year in Oregon, wildfire in particular is arguably Oregon's biggest existential threat. In fact, we know that 2024 was a record breaking fire year here in Oregon. In response to this, utilities are taking even more precautions concerning Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) when there is wildfire risk. We want utilities to be smart about mitigating wildfire risk, including continuing to improve how each engages with and supports communities during a PSPS event. Communities must also have what they need to remain comfortable during these power outages. Community Resilience Hubs are a crucial piece of this puzzle, and quite frankly can be the difference between life and death for Oregon's most vulnerable households.

When families are faced with big and small disruptions, access to information and resources ensures that families, streets, blocks and communities have a plan. They know who they can call and where they can go. Preparedness saves lives. Since the resilience hub grant program started, 604 applications seeking assistance to life saving preparedness were denied due to lack of funding. We all deserve to live in resilient, connected and safe communities. Continuing to fund this program to ensure that Oregon communities are supported before, during and after a disaster ensures Oregonians will thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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