

Date: February 4th, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Subject: Support for Resilience Hubs and Networks

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

My name is Hallie Parkins and I live in Corvallis, Oregon. I am writing because my community of Luther House, the Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry of which I serve as pastor, is building physical, emotional, social, and spiritual resilience with students at Oregon State University. I support HB 3170 to provide an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks. Extreme weather and wildfires continue to hurt Oregonians, and we must ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to thrive, not just survive.

I support HB 3170 and the continued funding of Resilience Hubs and Networks because my community experienced the extreme weather of an ice storm like many across the state. Students in particular were vulnerable in the ice storm. On-campus students had limited access to food in the dining halls. It was unsafe for students to walk and bike around the city to get to grocery stores. Many off campus students had limited resources, and were ill-prepared to weather such an event with extra food, water, emergency supplies, and community support. This event exposed the gap between what students expect from the university in terms of disaster preparedness (resources, communication, and education for all students) and what the university actually provides only on-campus students in the event of an extreme weather event.

As a pastor who cares deeply about the well-being of young adults in campus life, I want to equip university students in their neighborhoods across the city to be prepared in case of disasters. While grades and graduation are the primary focus, students also need to know their neighbors and be prepared when climate-related extreme weather events happen. Resilience Hubs and Networks in this campus community mean investing in young adults. Building up resilience hubs and networks in this campus community can equip and empower young adults in ways the traditional degree programs of the university cannot.

In the Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry, we are committed to becoming a resilience hub for our students, our neighbors, and community. This fall, students and Lutheran-Episcopal staff held community listening sessions, canvassed our neighborhood to surface climate-related concerns, and connected with emergency management staff at the university. In our own building, we have replaced the original windows with double-paned higher efficiency windows and added air purifiers as we work towards upgrading our infrastructure to be a clean-air and cooling shelter. Students regularly host mutual aid groups at Luther House. Our BIPIC and queer student student community builds

day-to-day resilience in our campus ministry and community. Luther House is a trusted space of belonging, and a bridge in other communities. While students are directly affected, our students are committed particularly to those who are most vulnerable, including our unhoused neighbors and students who are also impacted by extreme weather and climate events.

There is so much more to do. With the student leadership, committed staff, and neighbors, we are poised to build resilience with and alongside the campus community. Unfortunately, we were one of the hundreds of organizations that applied in the initial round and were not funded. Another chance at funding the resilience work of the Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry would mean the opportunity to support student-leadership as they move and organize in campus communities and neighborhoods throughout the city.

I urgently urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities now and into the future.

Sincerely,
Rev. Hallie Parkins
Corvallis, OR