

Date: Jan 5 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 Parker Van De Wetering and I live in Corvallis and I am writing because I represent an organization called WestM that has benefited greatly from the resiliency grant we received. 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: I have personally experienced several climate emergencies, and I know my community needs more protection from climate disaster. Last year my town was hit with a catastrophic ice storm that crippled city infrastructure, caused many to lose power, and limited transportation for most. I was fortunate to have a warm, safe, well-stocked place to shelter, but many of my community were not so lucky. With many unable to drive, the local soup kitchen found themselves in need of extra volunteers, and I stepped up. The energy in the dining hall that night was electric, overflowing with gratitude. Many of the patrons sleep outside, and had no ability to take shelter. This space, warm and dry, was a haven from the crisis, and you could feel it. Most of us would have gone hungry that night, if not for the support our community provided us with. It is for this reason that I support HB 3170. It is critical that we broaden support for mutual aid and community preparedness for times of emergency like the one I experienced. The fear and insecurity of no transportation and no ability to access food is something no one should ever experience, but unfortunately it is something that many experience on a daily basis. This bill is our chance to make a difference in the lives of so many oregonians.

So far, Resilience Hubs and Networks has invested \$10 million in locally-driven, community-led efforts to prepare us for disaster. During the last grant cycle, the state received over 700 applications and was only able to fund 69 of them, demonstrating the clear need for continued funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

These grants helped communities repair buildings that are emergency shelters, purchase satellite phones, generators, solar generators, water purification systems, and emergency vehicles; and financed staff positions like nurses and outreach staff. These investments will save lives, help first responders, speed recovery, and benefit the communities that are hit first and worst by extreme weather, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

I urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Parker Van De Wetering

Corvallis, OR