



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

Date: February 4, 2025

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Support HB 3170, 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:

We write on behalf of 350PDX, a grassroots climate and environmental organization with thousands of members in the Portland area. While we are doing everything we can to mitigate and reverse climate change, its impacts are already upon us, and those on the frontlines of these impacts are often communities of color, people with low income, people in rural communities, and people with disabilities. Resilience hubs and networks ensure all communities have access to the resources and networks they need to thrive, not just survive when facing disasters; therefore, we encourage you to **support HB 3170 and renew funding for at least \$10 million for community resilience hubs and networks.**

Extreme weather conditions in Oregon have and will continue to become more extreme. In 2024 alone, we experienced a winter freeze that caused power outages around the state,¹ a summer heat wave, and a record-breaking fire year due to drought.² Resilience hubs and networks provide life-saving assistance during climate emergencies: a place to cool down during a heat wave, warm up during the winters, and emergency shelter and electricity during wildfire or flood evacuations. These hubs additionally provide resources before and after these climate disasters such as mental health services. They are designed by and for each community, allowing those in the community to come together and help each other.

People from across the state have expressed a need and interest in resilience hubs, as is evidenced by the 700 grant applications received in the previous grant cycle; over 90% of the requests went unfunded. Much more is needed than \$10 million per budget cycle.

When emergencies happen, state agencies rely on voluntary agencies such as community-based organizations, faith communities, nonprofit groups, and concerned citizens to help in relief and recovery efforts. People around the state want to help each other when things become difficult—preparing in advance through fully funding community resilience hubs and networks will help each community to respond in appropriate and timely ways.

¹ https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Documents/2024_January_Winter_Weather_AAR.pdf

² https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1217687.pdf



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By passing HB 3170, more resilience hubs and networks will be able to save lives, repair emergency shelters, increase equity, purchase generators and solar battery storage, install water purification systems, support first responders, and reduce property impacts. Though we do not want climate emergencies to happen in our communities, though we hope to never see those in neighboring counties or states displaced into our towns, we know these events are occurring more often, and therefore we need to be prepared with resilience hubs and networks. We urge you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building strong Oregon communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charlie Welling
Climate Policy Assistant
350PDX

Dr. Cherice Bock
Climate Policy Manager
350PDX

Building the climate justice movement.