



February 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 Alison Killeen and I am writing in support of HB 3170, on behalf of Leaven Community in Portland, Oregon. Today, I urge you to pass this legislation funding an additional \$10 million in funding for Resilience Hubs and Networks.

At Leaven Community, we believe that Community Resilience Hubs are as much about relationships and trust as they are about disaster preparedness.

Last Fall, when Leaven began holding weekly community meals as a new (to us) experiment, we noticed something extraordinary: When folks stopped by the Leaven Community Center for a tasty pay-as-you-can meal, they often also participated in any number of the additional events or activities that take place in our building. Perhaps they checked out a tool at the NE Portland Tool Library, or repaired a household item at a Repair PDX [repair café](#). Possibly, they created something beautiful at the Leaven Collab Maker's space down the hall, practiced their English or Spanish at the *Intercambio* language exchange, or participated in a restorative Community Rest Session.

Week after week, neighbors who hadn't known each other before kept seeing each others' faces, built relationships with each other, and got to know the civic organizations and community groups that call Leaven Community Center home. We learned each other's names. We ate each other's cooking. We learned to run the industrial dishwasher together! **This is the kind of trust that can't be built overnight - and it is exactly the kind of trust that we all need in the midst of disaster.**

At a time when the cost of living just seems to keep on climbing, finding a community hub where a person can access an affordable meal, free tools, language classes, collective rest, *and* a sense of

belonging is truly priceless. In 2025, Leaven Community hopes to add disaster preparedness and climate resilience to that list.

This past year, Leaven was one of the 700 individuals and organizations who applied for resources and supplies to support our community in the face of climate disasters - but unfortunately, we were not able to be offered a grant. Yet as Portland faces the impacts of climate change, with more frequent heat waves, wildfire smoke, extreme weather events and unpredictable storms, our city needs physical and relational hubs to support our communities to thrive in the midst of disaster and even day-to-day uncertainty.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Killeen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alison Killeen
Director-Organizer, Leaven Community
Portland, Oregon