

Date: February 4, 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 Metzin Rodriguez and I live in Coos Bay and I am writing because as an advocate in climate and environmental justice I have seen how BIPOC, low-income, those with disabilities, seniors and children and rural and coastal communities who have been living on the frontlines of climate change, experiencing extreme weather events first and worst. 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: Our communities that have been historically and systematically ignored, they face higher costs for utilities, worse air quality and worse health outcomes. Not only that but oftentimes there's a lack in language access support which must be a top priority to support our multilingual communities who often are left behind. It is critical that we prioritize these communities to ensure they have the resources needed as extreme weather events continue to worsen.

If we act now to continue investing in stronger communities, we will create the resources and connections to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes. Stronger communities make the difference between surviving and thriving.

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,

Metzin

Coos Bay, Oregon