Submitter: Karen Wolfgang

On Behalf Of: Centennial NET

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Resilience hubs shouldn't be necessary, but they are.

The climate crisis is driving destabilization and uncertainty as societal forces increasingly lead to unequal resources and community mistrust.

Most communities — including ours, the Centennial neighborhood in East Portland — struggle to connect vulnerable people with needed resources, and share the capacity of those who have it to spare.

From Bowling Alone (http://bowlingalone.com/) to the AR6 synthesis report released today (https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/20/ipcc-climate-crisis-report-delivers-final-warning-on-15c), we've long recognized the need for urgent action to re-knit the social fabric and remake our communities to weather the coming storms — literally and figuratively.

Despite the best efforts of many, the momentum has not yet developed toward these community-scale transformations. The resilience hub we expect to pilot this year is an opportunity to center this work in our city-sized neighborhood — and give our 25,000 neighbors a nucleus around which to gather to meet, learn, and take action.

I look forward to having the opportunity to garner state support for this work, and to sharing our best practices with other communities around the state.

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