

Date: 02/16/2023

To: Representante Nathan Sosa, Distrito 30

Chair Marsh and members of the committee,

My name is Nicolas Pajuelo, I am a resident of the city of Hillsboro. I am writing in support of HB 2990 Community Resilience HUBS. All the communities need a safe place to gather, communicate and distribute resources, especially during hard, dangerous times.

With temperatures rising, extreme weather, forest fires, and an ongoing pandemic, supporting local resilience communities couldn't be more imperative. This could look different from one community to another. Resilience hubs are flexible both in their application and design. Sites are as diverse as the communities they serve. Moreover, Resilience Hubs provide an opportunity to build local community power and leadership. They are focal points for neighborhood revitalization that provide the resources residents need to enhance their own individual capacity while also supporting and strengthening their neighborhood and neighbors. Instead of being led by local government, they are intended to be supported by local government and other partners but led and managed by community members, community-based organizations, and/or faith-based groups.

I am a college student and I have come to realize that I don't have a plan or a place to gather for security if an emergency happens. This emergency could be a fire, an earthquake, extremely cold weather, an extreme heat advisory, or a mass shooting. My family resides in Hillsboro but most of my classmates come from further away places in Oregon or even from other states. A Resilience Hub would coordinate communications and enhance the support the residents need in times of crisis. It could also serve as a shelter and a place we can all gather to connect with friends and family, get food supplies, water, electricity, charge our phones, etc.

Fortunately, we have the opportunity to pass a measure like HB 2990 that would strengthen small communities and would include equity-centered strategies considering the most vulnerable populations, giving them the power to plan and act to enhance their resilience.

It has been my experience, and my family's that when a time of crisis as the pandemic happens, the top-down approaches fail to include the most vulnerable. In our case, it was the immigrants. It was until Community-Based Organizations started promoting vaccines and organizing vaccination clinics that immigrant communities felt safe and confident to access them.

I ask for your support to pass HB 2990!

Sincerely,

Nicolas Pajuelo