

Submitter: Michelle Graas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Date: March 20, 2023 To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Re: Support for HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment, My name is Michelle Graas, and I live in Portland. I am writing to you because our state has faced and will continue to face a number of climate emergencies, and we need increased funding and better tools to mitigate the effects of these disasters on our communities. I support HB 2990 to create a grant program through the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management that will go directly to communities to build and implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks. Community Resilience Hubs are critical components of any disaster-management plan. They enable government and nonprofit organizations to distribute resources, share information, and coordinate communication before, during, and after crises. But they are also a means of building stronger communities: not only can they help Oregonians work together in the face of major threats, but they also serve as mechanisms for us to address long-standing inequities and points of vulnerability. Community Resilience Hubs provide the tools we need to help one another and ourselves, both in everyday life and when facing wildfires, droughts, pandemics, and other emergencies. I urge you to vote Yes on HB 2990 to invest in building stronger communities, and create the resources and connections to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes. Stronger communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving. Thank you very much for your consideration.