

Submitter: Lilli Hankins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

My name is Lilly Hankins and I live in Portland/East Multnomah County. I am writing to you because I am a mother to an elementary-age child, a mental health therapist, and am very concerned with helping our communities better respond to climate and other disasters in ways that support the most vulnerable among us (such as low income people, children, people with disabilities, people with mental illnesses.

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. I support Community Resilience Hubs because as a resident of East Multnomah County, I know what it is like to live in a working-class area with less infrastructure to support disaster response and community building.

During the wildfires of 2020, I worked with my daughter to collect supplies to donate to people in need, and saw that it was small collectives of community members and nonprofits who were organizing to respond on the ground to help people. These efforts need to be supported and unified, and having core community hubs that people trust and know they can turn to in each neighborhood seems like an excellent way to build resilience.

I would love to be part of a community resilience hub in my neighborhood, to have a space where I can go and be part of caring for others in my direct community, and to show my daughter what it looks like to take care of our neighbors.

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.

Sincerely,
Lilly Hankins
Portland, Oregon