

Date: March 2, 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,

Creating places to gather and care for each other in good times and bad strengthens our bonds and fosters close-knit, resilient communities. My name is Karen C., and I live in NW Portland. I am writing because my family survived various climate disruptions before, and I want Oregonians to have access to Resilience hubs and networks to support each other better. I support HB 2990 to create a grant program to implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks. I'm also writing because I work with Latinx women and their families. With the change in weather, many families need help knowing where to go during climate disruptions. A cool or warm place during a disruption can make the difference between struggle and resilience for our communities. We work with many farmworkers who also have faced hardships during heat waves. There's also an overwhelming concern for the well-being of children and folks with disabilities before, during, and after climate disruptions. Oregonians deserve to have spaces in place to gather and share resources. We have seen how folks support each other during emergencies; now, we can support the critical work folks are already doing.

When my parents' home flooded during a hurricane, they had to grab a few things and leave their house. Thankfully, their family friend worked at the local high school where a group of folks from the neighborhood could shelter and sleep on a dry carpet space. It took a lot of work for folks to know where to find food, water, and other necessities. We know folks already do this work in their communities during wildfires, winter storms, and other climate distributions. During the Almeda Fires in Southern Oregon, communities experienced hardships accessing support. We can better plan and work alongside each other by supporting the efforts and networks already supporting our communities. Prevention is the best use of our resources.

We are stronger together. We look out for our neighbors when wildfires, extreme heat, and other climate disasters threaten our communities. I urge you to support HB 2990.

Sincerely,

Karen C.