

March 22, 2023

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment 900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 2990, Community Resilience Hubs and Networks

Honorable Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the Committee:

As a Community Based Organization supporting mental health recovery in Multnomah and Clackamas County for over 35 years, we are writing in support of Bill 2990 (HB 2990).

Our program has naturally formed a resilient community of those that identify as having lived experience with mental health challenges. We are a group of peers that may describe ourselves as veterans, houseless, disabled, or living with a diagnosis. This grassroots movement is already functioning as a resiliency hub and we would like to offer our community the tools to take that into a future of increased challenges.

Our members are disproportionately effected by extreme weather events or emergencies. Community Based Organizations fill in the gaps of providing direct care in emergencies and we need funding to be able to do that. We already have the security nets, we just need help to modernize and strengthen them.

HB 2990 is critical to be proactive instead of reactive. Those of us working on the ground already know how isolated and vulnerable these marginalized groups are. We are already doing the work. I look forward to a future where our community is trained and strengthened to face the challenges of the future together.

Sincerely,

TaMara Edens

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