



American Planning Association  
Oregon Chapter

*Creating Great Communities for All*

March 22, 2023

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair  
Representative Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair  
Representative Emerson Levy, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of House Bill 2990-1 amendment

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs B. Levy and E. Levy, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2990-1 amendment related to developing and implementing a grant program to support resilience hubs and networks in Oregon. As climate-change related disasters increase in frequency and intensity — taking a heavy toll on human lives, infrastructure, and the power grid — locally planned resilience hubs and networks are a proven effective approach to protect community health communities and prioritize resilience.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

Our support for the suite of bills follows from OAPA's legislative priority policy to support legislation that confronts climate change with actions that mitigate climate change and help Oregon's communities prepare for, adapt to, and become more resilient to its impacts, while addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change on vulnerable community members.

OAPA enthusiastically supports program as described by the -1 amendments as an opportunity to protect local community health and reduce vulnerability and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the same time. It is also an opportunity to robustly engage community members in the process of planning and enhancing local resiliency.

OAPA offers these additional comments:

- Prioritize grants where there is desire and support from members of the community and where community leaders and community based organizations, including environmental justice organizations, are engaged

from the very beginning in co-developing the hubs and networks.

- Prioritize grants that help vulnerable populations and communities adapt to impacts from climate change ensuring that they understand how the hub and network can benefit them before, during and after a major disruption.
- Prioritize grants that recognize the role and needed expertise of local health, emergency management, planning, public works, housing, transportation, sustainability, and general services agencies.
- Prioritize distribution of the grants to serve all parts of Oregon — its rural, coastal, tribal and urban areas.

Local communities, throughout Oregon, are on the frontlines of the unique challenges faced with more frequent and severe extreme weather and grid outages and the impacts of wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, flooding and slope instability. Resilience hubs and networks are one way they can tangibly protect all residents with community-focused solutions that support a safer, more sustainable, and more connected future.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to express OAPA's strong support of HB 2990-1 amendment.

Sincerely,

*Kevin C. Cook*

Kevin Cook (he/him)  
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