

Submitter: Diane Meisenhelter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

My name is Diane Meisenhelter and I work with Sabin NET team as a volunteer emergency responder in my NE Neighborhood. We have been working on a Neighbors Helping Neighbors program to organize block by block, train volunteers ahead of time, and create a number of emergency supply depots in our community in case of a disaster. We wrote and received a small grant to help garner supplies. One of our partners in this project is Maranatha Church, the largest Black church in our neighborhood and we have been sharing with them about the concept of Community Resilience Hubs. From a freak extreme weather tornado that happened in our community in the spring, we became aware of how children alone at home, seniors, and others who are alone could use a place to gather and receive both emotional and sometimes medical or other support during an emergency. We have a power station in our community that if it caught fire, would require the evacuation of a large section of the community to a safe shelter in place area far enough from the site. I would urge your support of HB 2990 as we need these Community Resilience Hubs and even small amounts of funding can make a big difference in being sure that they are a safe and supportive place for neighborhood residents. We are talking with Maranatha about that very possibility. As climate chaos worsens, we are likely to experience more events requiring a community response and there is always the possibility of an earthquake or other natural disaster so the sooner we can get adequate response systems in place, the better. Thanks for your time and consideration and please support HB 2990.

Sincerely Diane Meisenhelter,
Sabin NET and XRPDX