

Submitter: Rena Shippentower

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

In this past year we lost our home to a fire. We needed immediate shelter, clothing, food, and water. My daughter and her boyfriend have a home with no water. We went to their home but there was no running water. We need our basic needs met during and after disasters. Homeless shelters aren't a long term answer so we need solutions. People who are displaced need resources, even temporarily. Our tribe has no drinkable water right now, and it's been going on for ages. My whole family is concerned about the lack of water and resources that are taking care of that. Hygiene products were lacking during these emergencies and women and children couldn't get basic hygiene supplies and needs met. We were scared for our community and upset about how these emergencies have been managed. We had no electricity in our house so we couldn't get insurance on our home. The home wasn't even insured (the shell/structure) so we lost our home, transportation and how we get to work, all in one. We were frustrated, anxious, and still are. My daughter was born in the home we lost, so we were struggling to understand how this impacted us. My husband and I lived in a tent, and my daughter lived with her sister. It was heartbreaking to be separated, as a really tight-knit family. We couldn't feed our pets, and they were separated from us, too. Places we could be housed in the meantime, didn't allow pets. Our dogs were homeless too, essentially. We were and still are emotionally impacted. I have asthma, and so do my daughters. The fires that occur affect us tremendously. During the burning season even, it's tough on me.

There has to be a way to offer resources to people like me who are medically vulnerable to climate emergencies. We are in a bowl where heat/smoke settles in and doesn't leave. That causes asthma attacks and in general it is hard to breathe. Having resilience hubs could provide support. Right now I have to go to the casino to get away from smoky conditions inside my home, but it is still filled with smoke from smokers! In this past year, I lost my sister, my daughter, and my father got cancer, on top of my house burning down. My family and I are in crisis mode. We are resilient and we need more resources nonetheless.

Having a clean, safe building to come to is essential! I've seen other places in California who are able to recycle their water. Our tribes have ideas like this that could be implemented at somewhere like a community resilience hubs, because we know what our community experiences and needs. Our children have no recreational place to be after hours. A safe place like a resilience hubs could provide job opportunities and safe places to gather, support one another, and just be kids. I support HB 2990 because it would help our communities during crises, especially during emotionally triggering times and make it easier instead of making it harder.

Thank you, Rena Shippentower
Warm Springs