



March 22, 2023

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill House Bill 2990

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 supporters statewide.

The ACLU of Oregon strongly supports House Bill 2990 -1 amendment, which would create a grant program through the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management that will go directly to communities to build and implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks.

Oregon's emergency management services are stretched thin. Across the state, people of color, low-income, rural, and disabled communities are hit hardest in times of disaster.¹ This disparity in impact arises because of the inequities that pre-exist these crises.

The creation of community resilience hubs, which provide day-to-day services and community space and "activate" in times of crisis, help remediate these inequities and mitigate the disproportionate harm that might otherwise befall vulnerable Oregon communities.

These hubs will foster the community-building and coordination needed to survive disasters and to rebuild in their aftermath. These hubs also represent an efficient, forward thinking consolidation of resources, as we proactively build and support communities that can withstand disaster.

HB 2990 is the result of an incredible coalition effort, representing community groups from all over Oregon, bilingual outreach, and bipartisan coordination. This bill represents what representative democracy can look like when our values lead.

House Bill 2990 is an important step for equity and disaster preparedness in Oregon. **The ACLU of Oregon urges you to pass House Bill 2990 out of committee.**

Respectfully,

¹ Kelly Anne Smith, How Communities of Color Are Hurt Most by Climate Change, Forbes, January 7, 2021, <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/communities-of-color-and-climate-change/>.