



March 21, 2023

Chair Pam Marsh
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. The Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that advances innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations. The Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) works within local and state governments to demand clean air and water, healthy forests and wildlife, and a renewable energy future for all Oregonians. Our organizations and the Oregon Conservation Network strongly urge you to support HB 2990 with the -1 amendment, which will create a grant program at the Oregon Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Resilience and Emergency Management to support communities in building and implementing Community Resilience Hubs and networks.

Just this week, the United Nations released its latest climate change report explaining that the world is likely to pass a dangerous temperature threshold within the next 10 years unless we drastically transform our economies and immediately transition away from fossil fuels.¹ Our organizations work to support clean energy and other solutions to rapidly cut climate pollution, understanding that it is equally important to build community resilience to climate harms. As the climate emergency worsens, causing more extreme wildfires, heat waves, and other harms, we need to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors—low-income families and renters, environmental justice populations, rural communities, seniors, and people with disabilities—have access to safe and healthy shelter, food, water, and other life-saving resources. With Community Resilience Hubs and networks, communities can gather to connect and take care of each other during emergencies.

¹ See Sarah Kaplan, "World is on brink of catastrophic warming, U.N. climate change report says," Washington Post (March 20, 2023), at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/20/climate-change-ipcc-report-15/>.

The need for safe, healthy gathering spaces is already prevalent. Approximately 100 people died across 28 Oregon cities during the 2021 heat wave. Wildfires over the past few years have left thousands of Oregonians without housing and even more facing extreme air pollution. With extreme heat events and wildfires becoming increasingly common, we cannot wait to have safe spaces to gather. Community Resilience Hubs and networks will help protect our most vulnerable communities as these extreme heat events become more common.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote yes on HB 2990 with -1 amendment to invest in community efforts to develop and implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks.

Sincerely,

Greer Ryan, *Clean Buildings Policy Manager*
Climate Solutions

Nora Apter, *Climate Program Director*
Oregon Environmental Council

Julia DeGraw, *Coalition Director*
Oregon League of Conservation Voters