



Date: March 22, 2023

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: Support for HB 2990 Community Resilience Hubs

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

My name is Verónica Núñez and I am the Director of Leadership and Advocacy at Adelante Mujeres, an organization based in Forest Grove with over 20 years of commitment to Latina women and their families. Adelante Mujeres provides holistic education and empowerment opportunities to marginalized Latina women to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community. More than 80% of our staff identifies as Latina, providing us a unique and strong connection to the population we serve.

I support HB 2990 to 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.

As someone who came to the US over twenty years ago, I understand the difficulties of navigating a system so different from the one I grew up in. I had to get familiar with the landscape, the weather, and the potential climate disasters of this area. It can be scary to be in a new place, learning the language while also understanding how to make our families safe during a natural disaster.

In 2001, just a few months after moving to Oregon, there was a mild tremor that woke me up early in the morning. I was so disoriented and scared; I had no idea where I could go if something had happened. Still, to this day, I gravitate towards places that feel like home, where I can speak Spanish and connect culturally with others, particularly in times of stress and confusion.

I support Community Resilience Hubs because:

1. They provide a safe space for the families we serve, and a place to connect when they need it the most.

2. We are stronger together. When our communities are threatened by wildfires, extreme heat, and other climate disasters, we look out for our neighbors. Having people and culturally relevant systems in place can potentially save lives and create a healthier community, with less stress, anxiety, and worries about being safe.
3. Communities with less stress are more resilient, resourceful, and likely to thrive.

I urge you to vote Yes on HB 2990 to invest in building stronger communities and create the resources and connections to make it easier for Oregonians the next time disaster strikes.

Sincerely,

Veronika Nunez
Adelante Mujeres Leadership and Advocacy Director