

## **Testimony in Support of HB 2990**

**TO:** Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs, and, members of the Committee

**FR:** Alyssa Rueda

**DT:** March 22, 2023

**RE: Testimony to the House Committee on Community Resilience Hubs HB 2990**

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

I am writing to express my support for HB 2990. 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.

Now more than ever, resilience hubs are essential to ensure people are safe and prepared. With the changing climate, we are experiencing excruciatingly hot summers, colder winters, increased wildfires, and many more crisis events. In 2020, when wildfires were rampaging, it was community-based organizations and volunteers who were essential responders. This community response is present during all natural disasters. Therefore, local governments must be in partnership with community groups to mitigate any gaps when responding to disasters. Communities need to be prepared for future events that could have irrevocable impacts on community members. We know that not every community is the same. Each have different needs, different dangers and of course have specify ways to prepare for an emergency. HB 2990 would provide the necessary funding for local communities to plan and build resilience strategies specific to our communities. Each community will design its local hub to reflect what works, whether that's resource navigation, community gardens, workforce readiness, family activities, or mobile vans.

Community Resilience Hubs are trusted places with networks of care that are designed by and for the community to promote safety and a sense of belonging with physical, social and ecological well-being. The hubs will support day to day life while being ready to activate during disruptions and recovery efforts before, during and after climate related emergencies and other natural disasters. We are stronger together! If we invest in building our communities, we will

create the resources and connections needed to make it easier on Oregonians the next time a disaster strikes. Resilient communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Thank you for your time and I strongly encourage the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment to pass HB 2990 to protect and prepare Oregonians for crisis events.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Rueda