

Submitter: Laura Feldman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

Date: March 23, 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 Laura Feldman and I live in the Portsmouth Neighborhood, in the “Blast Zone,” on the North Portland Peninsula sandwiched between industry next to the Columbia River, and the Portland Harbor superfund site on the Willamette River. The latter includes the Central Energy Infrastructure Hub and the Zenith Oil Terminal—a sacrificial zone situated on the Cascadia Subduction Earthquake Zone.

As an activist working with the Willamette River Advocacy Group on the superfund cleanup, I am very concerned about these particular risks we face in this part of the city. 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.

I support Community Resilience Hubs because the City of Portland doesn’t seem to understand the climate crisis and its impact on challenges to different communities and neighborhoods. We need something better than “Shelter in Place” which is all the city seems to offer.

Community Resilience Hubs will help us understand the particular challenges we face in this area in order to respond as necessary during disruptions and recovery efforts before, during, and after climate-related emergencies.

We will learn how to prepare for climate disasters ahead of time by collaborating with existing energy systems and community-based renewable energy programs to provide electric heat pumps and solar panels with battery backup.

By creating places to gather and care for each other in good times and bad, we strengthen our bonds and foster close-knit, resilient communities. These hubs will enable us to advocate for what we need to adapt to the climate crisis.

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. Stronger communities can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Sincerely,

Laura Feldman
Portland, OR