



**Testimony in Support of HB 2990 -1 Amendment
Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval, Unite Oregon
March 22, 2023**

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of our 46,000 members in support of House Bill 2990 -1 amendment, Community Resilience Hubs. My name is Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval and I am the Policy Director at Unite Oregon. Our statewide organization is led by black, indigenous, people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty.

Over the past few years, we have seen how environmental disasters have impacted Oregonians throughout the state, including wildfires, elevated temperatures, and snowstorms. In the last two years, our Environmental Justice team held a listening tour across 4 regions in Oregon, where we heard from community members about their experiences and needs. It was incredibly difficult to hear the stories of our Rogue Valley chapter. After meeting with a multitude of partner organizations, government agencies, and community leaders, it became evident that we all had the same intent in addressing disasters in our communities. We wanted to find a way to coordinate our efforts and so we began to discuss what a Community Resilience Hub could look like.

As mentioned by the speakers before me, we would like to implement Community Resilience Hubs and networks across the state to prepare, respond, and recover from disasters. The transition from recovery to preparation being when the community is ready. The Hubs will be physical buildings meanwhile the Networks will be an association of resources and services outside the building that collectively serve the purposes of the Community Resilience Hubs. The buildings will be expected to provide heating, cooling, air filtration, and weather protection. All other standards will be designed by and for the communities within the locality in which the Hubs and Networks operate. The program will be housed by OREM in consultation with ODOE and OHA. Grants will cover expenses related to planning and organizing Hubs and Networks, supporting and/or expanding buildings, and resources and services for disasters. This program is designed to work with existing disaster prevention and response programs. We have seen many great programs make their way through the aforementioned offices and are excited to see the implementation of HB 2990, a strong bipartisan bill. We would also like to thank our chief sponsors, Representatives Marsh and Khanh Pham for all the support, and co-sponsors Representatives Owens, Osbourne, and Gamba.



Oregonians have been strong and brave, now it's time to be resilient. Unite Oregon urges you to support HB 2990 -1 amendment.