



March 24th, 2023

Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Liz Marquez and I am the policy associate at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. At PCUN, we work to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy. I am writing on behalf of our members to express their support for HB 2990 which will 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.

Across our state, low-income, rural and communities of color are disproportionately impacted in times of disaster. During the 2020 wildfires, our staff and volunteers were essential responders to meet the needs of our community in Woodburn. PCUN made a call to action to our members, supporters and allies to support families and farmworkers affected by the wildfires. We witnessed how quickly our community came together to support each other by donating supplies, volunteering, and donating to our farmworker emergency fund for farmworkers affected by COVID-19 and the wildfires. Despite our community coming together quickly in 2020, we want to make sure that we are prepared when the next disaster strikes. 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.

Partnerships between community groups and local governments can mitigate gaps when responding to such disasters and everyday life. Community Resilience Hubs are trusted places with networks of care designed by and for communities to cultivate physical, social, and ecological well-being with a sense of belonging and safety. The hubs will support day-to-day life and activate during disruptions and recovery efforts before, during, and after climate-related emergencies and other natural disasters.

We 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.

Liz Marquez Gutierrez
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