

Submitter: Mary McGill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2990

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

My name is Mary McGill and I am an Active Neighborhood Emergency Team Member and Portland resident trained by PBEM and Portland Fire and Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within the Arbor Lodge/Kenton neighborhoods. I am also Certified in Adult Mental Health First Aid. Professionally, I am a Licensed Professional Counselor who, for over 30 years, has served Oregonians in numerous counties throughout the state within community-based and private practice settings.

I hope to leave behind a legacy that is based on two essential elements: belonging and service. As human beings, we flourish when we feel a sense of belonging, whether that be with our loved ones, family and friends, our neighborhoods, our educational institutions and workplaces, our communities and municipalities, and beyond. When we belong and feel valued, service seems to be natural, and when the focus of our service is beyond ourselves, our individuals and communities can better flourish. They also have a better chance to heal, grow heal and grow after hardships like the pandemic we are still dealing with, natural disasters, climate-affected crises, and other difficulties that inevitably arise.

This bill would support all of the above. We need a central place where survivors, volunteers, and leaders can gather for help and for service.

If there was more time I would write more. I hope my perspective is valuable.