

Submitter: Diane Ware  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Ways and Means Committee members,

My name is Diane Ware, and I live in Medford. I am here today in support of 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 lived in Talent for 6 years and felt and witnessed the trauma neighbors and friends experienced losing everything during and after the Almeda fire. Like others in my church and throughout the valley I got to participate in mutual aid programs organized by Rogue Climate. Delivering hot meals, working in pop-ups to provide much needed supplies and support. I could see families who lost so much feeling like they mattered and belonged to the community and could get back on their feet. This is to me what resilience hubs and networks would do.

It's scary to think about other fires and earthquakes. I feel privileged to live in a retirement community that has done a lot of preparation. But there're so many neighborhoods that don't have things in place like: people checking in on them, stored food, medicine and water, transportation, and other resources.

I have seen that by creating places to gather and care for each other in good times and bad, we can look out for our neighbors and foster resilient families.

Since this committee is specifically looking into the state's budget, I wanted to share how HB 2990 intends to work with federal and state funds and programs in a collaborative way to ensure various sources are coming together to fulfill these resilience hub projects.

In uncertain times with a changed climate, we can all feel safer, knowing where to turn the next time disaster strikes and that our communities are ready.

I urge you to fund and vote Yes on HB 2990. Thank you