
Feb. 5th, 2026

House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans

RE: HB 4121(SPARTICUS BILL)/Community Resilience Hubs

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Watanabe, and Members of the Committee-

The undersigned organizations: Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA), Unite Oregon, Verde, and Rogue Climate thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on HB 4121. It is becoming increasingly clear that Oregon needs substantial investment in resilience efforts, and we applaud ongoing efforts to address this growing need. We appreciate the collaboration with Representative Evans' office to incorporate community resilience hubs into this bill. We recognize the importance of ensuring that Oregon's emergency service response is adequately funded, especially for firefighters and rural community services. Our understanding is that this bill is not intended to be appropriated specifically towards militarized law enforcement, police, or ICE operations. Our work in communities across the state in the midst of disaster demonstrates that community-based response is equally as important for mitigation and response to disasters. Our coalition has a specific interest and support for Sect. 29 of the bill, which establishes permanency for resilience hubs and networks.

OJTA is a statewide alliance of low-income frontline communities facing environmental and economic injustice. **Verde** is based in Cully, Portland, and its mission is to build environmental wealth in frontline communities by investing in climate resilience. Verde has a Builds team that installs energy upgrades, cooling, and solar in communities. **Unite Oregon** is an immigrant advocacy group led by black, indigenous, and people of color, focusing on housing justice, education, and community safety. **Rogue Climate** seeks to empower rural communities in Southern Oregon impacted by wildfire and climate change. They are a recipient of the resilience hubs grant program, led fire recovery efforts after Almeda and also have done multiple years of Ductless Heat Pump install programs. Verde, Rogue Climate and Unite Oregon are all participants in the State Resiliency Forum.

In 2023, this coalition and **over 50 organizations across the state** worked together to create Resilience Hubs and Networks. It was **a bipartisan success** that initially delivered \$10 million of critical resources to communities. With these funds, they could provide life-saving medical supplies, emergency communications equipment, and emergency response training. In 2024, we continued our leadership on community resilience by



working with the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) on rulemaking to clarify and sharpen program implementation.

During the first grant cycle, **OREM funded less than 100 out of 700 applications.**¹ As such, we are supportive of the creation of a permanent Resilient Hubs and Network Program within the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM). However, due to the over \$60 million in appropriations to law enforcement and public safety training facilities compared to \$0 allotted to community programs like Resilient Hubs, we cannot be in full support of HB 4121. We look forward to a time when Oregon can appropriate the funding needed for such a critical emergency response program that needs funding now, not at an unspecified date. Without it, **thousands of Oregonians** will be left defenseless against ongoing ice storms, heat waves, wildfires, and disasters that will wait for no one.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pang, Director of Programs, Oregon Just Transition Alliance

Metzin Rodriguez, Policy Lead, Unite Oregon

Jess Grady-Benson, Organizing Director, Rogue Climate

Zoe Serrano, Legislative Coordinator, Rogue Climate

Cheyenne Holliday, Director of Advocacy and Policy, Verde

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<https://apps.oregon.gov/oregon-newsroom/OR/ODHS/Posts/Post/odhs-10-million-grant-program-empowers-communities-statewide-enhance-emergency-preparedness-resilience>.