



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 4, 2025

To: [Representative John Lively, Chair](#)

[House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment](#)

Re: [HB 3170](#) – Networks that help people prepare for and respond to disasters – **Support**

LWVOR strongly supports HB 3170 to continue funding Resilience Hubs and Networks (formerly called Community Resilience Hubs), with \$10 million for grants, support, and technical assistance. HB 3170 will help Oregon communities develop plans and resources we need to survive and recover from climate-related disasters. Resilience networks help community members "prepare for, adapt to, or respond to social, emotional and physical disruption generated by ongoing climate change or other causes...". The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. An interrelated approach to combating climate change is necessary, including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.

The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this, while considering ramifications of their decisions, at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global.

HB 3170 would carry forward [HB 3409](#) ENROLLED (2023), which directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide grants and technical assistance for community resilience hubs and networks, to ensure that physical facilities could provide protection from extreme weather, maintain power during outages, and support communications in the wake of earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, floods, and other extreme weather events. Across Oregon, environmental justice communities are hit hardest in times of disaster and these grants supported planning, organizing, developing, and operating resilience hubs and networks, with a focus on serving vulnerable and traditionally underrepresented populations.

HB 3409 allocated \$10 million for grants and technical assistance. Grant applicants—schools, cities, counties, nonprofits, tribes—could design their hubs and networks according to their local resource needs, including but not limited to food and water, electronic charging, medical supplies and equipment, community gathering spaces, and heating and cooling shelters.

\$10 million was initially appropriated. DHS reported receiving more than 700 grant applications from 35 counties, with requests totaling \$173 million. HB 3170 would dedicate an additional \$10 million toward meeting communities' unmet needs and expand program support by directing DHS to provide equipment, technical assistance, contracted services, and other types of support for resilience hubs and networks.

LWVOR urges your support for HB 3170. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Lisa Bentson in black ink.

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator