TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

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February 27, 2023

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Testimony in Support of HB 3016

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education and emphasize the importance of watershed resiliency as we navigate the unpredictable threat of climate change. We write to support HB 3016, or more commonly known as the Community Green Infrastructure bill.

Our watershed, which encompasses all of Washington County and extends into other surrounding counties, has been a focal point for significant urban growth within the last decade. In fact, our organization sits on several advisory committees for cities interested in developing buildable lands. We encourage these cities to construct communities that are affordable and coexist with their natural environment. We also host our own stewardship program that focuses on restoring natural areas, particularly those close to the river or its tributaries. With the emerald ash borer now present in Washington County, existing restoration areas will be at risk, and we need to identify and utilize other alternatives to protect and cool the Tualatin River. The green infrastructure grant program created by this bill would support these efforts and provide much needed funding to governments and organizations spearheading projects that incorporate green infrastructure in community planning. These efforts will have a lasting, positive effect on both the human and natural environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Victoria Frankeny [she/her]
Riverkeeper & Staff Attorney
Tualatin Riverkeepers
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