

RE: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment—HB 3016

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of [Trees for Life Oregon](#) to express our wholehearted support for HB 3016. Green infrastructure is needed now to ensure *healthy* cities—cities with big trees and space for big trees. This bill is urgently needed to make sure that green infrastructure keeps pace with increasing housing stock and urban transportation improvements. Increased density will impact the whole pattern of urban land use and thus impact climate resilience. This is the moment to think and act holistically to ensure that our urban patterns of gray and green infrastructure and housing are developed in an integrated way to address climate conditions for the sake of Oregonians' future health and well-being. New housing and tree canopy need not be mutually exclusive.

We see an urgent need to develop evolving land use patterns that enable the equitable distribution of big-tree canopies in our cities. To balance the impact of essential new housing and make it *healthy* housing, state funding could lead the way by supporting projects such as curb bump-outs for big trees where there are no overhead wires, and the creation of small public pocket parks of canopy reservoirs.

We support developing a canopy assessment tool to inform the Oregon Department of Forestry's decision-making. We appreciate that Department of Land Conservation and Development is named as the administrator of the proposed program because *land* for trees is key if we are to have green cities for the future.

Finally, we also support the creation of a task force to bring together housing, transportation, and parks and forestry leaders and experts, as well as members of the communities they serve. Addressing community needs statewide for everything from a well-trained and educated workforce in environmental fields to healthy housing and safer and cooler streets deserves the careful consideration that an inclusive and diverse task force can provide.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,
Catherine Mushel
treesforlifeoregon.org