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March 1, 2023

Rep. Pam Marsh, Chair, and Members
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol - 900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3016 – Green Infrastructure

Dear Chair Marsh and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3016, which establishes a multi-faceted Community Green Infrastructure Program. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

Livable communities require accessible, affordable and diverse housing; walkable neighborhoods; nearby schools, stores, and services; and parks, trees, and other natural vegetation to support healthy air and water quality, mitigate heat islands, and provide places to play. We need planning and investment to bring this to every community.

HB 3016 establishes the Community Green Infrastructure Fund and Grant Program, administered by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). The funding is focused on programs that provide direct social, environmental, and economic benefits to communities through green infrastructure in the form of climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, local jobs, public or community health benefits and local food sovereignty. Grant recipients may include various community-based entities, including local workforce development boards, manufactured dwelling park nonprofit cooperatives, tribal governments, and nonprofit or faith-based organizations.

We are particularly excited about the bill's direction to the State Forestry Department to establish a statewide urban tree canopy assessment tool. This will provide critical information for many programs, including land use planning, heat island mitigation, carbon sequestration assessment, and more.

We urge your support for HB 3016. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Deputy Director