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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 comment in support of HB 3016, which creates a much-needed Community Green Infrastructure Program. The Urban Greenspaces Institute advocates for nature-based solutions and leads collaborative conservation initiatives across the Portland metropolitan region. We work to safeguard and reclaim greenspaces as places for people and nature, to address the climate crisis. In all work we seek to redress social and environmental injustice, to create healthy, connected and resilient communities.

I am writing today to add our voice in support of HB 3016 and the resources and tools it will support. For many years I have seen local communities struggle with how to finance and advance green infrastructure. And I have witnessed the difficult, and at times conflicting, support and resources offered by the Oregon departments of Forestry, and Land Conservation and Development. HB 3016 will shift this dynamic and allow us to accelerate and align investment in green infrastructure with urban development, transportation, planning and design.

Local communities need the tools and the grant program set up under HB 3016 bill. Local jurisdictions have not had sufficient resources to invest in their urban green infrastructure, especially urban trees.

The Urban Greenspaces Institute is working closely with The Blueprint Foundation, Nature Conservancy of Oregon, PSU Sustaining Urban Places Research Lab and others to lead a regional urban forestry accelerator – Connecting Canopies, which aims to support urban forestry leadership and investments in local cities. HB 3016 will augment this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to continued dialog with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Labbe".

Ted Labbe, Executive Director

[ted@urbangreenspaces.org](mailto:ted@urbangreenspaces.org)

*In Livable Cities is Preservation of the Wild*