

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

March 2, 2023

Re: HB 3016 support

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 3016. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (EMO and OIPL) would like to express our support for HB 2816. EMO consists of 15 member denominations and over 150 congregations, faith-based organizations, and institutions. We also partner with groups and individuals from many faith traditions to form Oregon Interfaith Power & Light.

EMO and OIPL support HB 3016: the Trees Restoring Economic and Environmental Stability (TREES) Act, which would establish the Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program, Fund, and Taskforce. It cannot be denied that climate change has begun to take its toll on Oregon. We have experienced the unprecedented heatwaves, and we have seen how such events have impacted our most vulnerable communities.

We are concerned for the health and wellbeing of Oregon's low-income and rural communities, as they continue to be the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related events. Community green infrastructure projects would lessen the impacts of climate-related events in a natural way. For example, the effects of heatwaves could be mitigated by planting more trees and increasing the amount of shade in a given neighborhood.

The TREES Act would provide direct social, environmental, and economic benefits to communities across this state through green infrastructure in the form of climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, local jobs, public or community health benefits and local food sovereignty.

The TREES Act would make it easier for communities to care for our common home and each other in a resource-mindful way. As a faith-based community, we believe in the moral imperative to care for the land and each other. Please join EMO & OIPL in supporting HB 3016.

Sincerely,

Julia Weinand
Climate & Environmental Justice Policy Advocate
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
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