



March 3, 2023

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

As Superintendent of our state's largest school district, I write in support of House Bill 3016, the Trees Restoring Economic and Environmental Stability Act. This bill will provide the necessary funding to allow public bodies, including school districts, to develop and maintain green infrastructure projects.

Intentionally designed schoolyards can inspire physical activity, learning, and environmental stewardship. Students' experiences in the natural world shape their creativity and imagination, while supporting their social and emotional learning. Moreover, greenspaces on school campuses are often the positive focal point for the surrounding neighborhood, as they are frequently used by local communities during non-school hours.

At Portland Public Schools, we have been expanding green infrastructure on our campuses through our greening schoolyards program. This program represents a partnership between the district, community organizations, school administrators, and volunteers to build and sustain green schoolyards. We also aim to make our schools more climate resilient and responsive to our community's needs. Being able to plant more trees on our school campuses would allow us to better serve and protect our students and community members during extreme heat events.

A focused and organized effort, like HB 3016, is needed to improve greenspaces and schoolyards across the state. On behalf of PPS, I urge you to support this important bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent, Portland Public Schools