



March 5, 2023

To House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: **HB 3016 Community Green Infrastructure Program**

Chair Marsh and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts provide technical services to protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership in both urban and rural areas with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 3016 as proposed as it includes a program and funding that will provide multiple benefits that are aligned with the types of projects that Soil and Water Conservation Districts develop with community members to achieve as districts who serve both rural and urban constituents. Districts can provide technical services and assistance for the range of projects the bill encompasses: water filtration and purification, tree canopies, resiliency and pollinator-friendly plantings, and other community needs. They have the experience in working in coordination with cities and communities to develop this range of projects. The benefit of water quality enhancement and carbon storage generate from these projects.

The task force in Section 3 of the bill calls for one representative from a special district local government. SWCDs are special district local governments under Oregon statutes and public bodies as defined in the bill language. We would request that the special district representative represent the SWCDs who work with communities in every area of the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Lee, Executive Director
(503) 545-9420
jan.lee@oacd.org
www.oacd.org