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March 1, 2023

Rep. Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3016, Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) board, I'm writing to express the district's support for HB 3016 establishing a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program, a Community Green Infrastructure Fund, and a statewide tree canopy assessment tool. I would also like to express our appreciation and support of the suggested amendments to add a park representative to the advisory committee and add Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as a partnering agency.

THPRD is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 270,000 residents in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD's mission is to provide natural areas, high-quality park and recreational facilities, programs, services and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. We strive to provide all individuals the opportunity to play, learn, and explore, and all employees and volunteers the opportunity to further the district's mission. We do this by removing barriers to participation, fostering an inclusive culture, and offering programs that celebrate the district's diverse population.

THPRD is committed to protecting and improving the environment and to hold ourselves accountable to reducing our carbon footprint and addressing climate change. We commit to continuing to be an active ally and leader on environmental education, natural resource protection, and by adopting practices that uphold environmental stewardship, to ensure we pass on a healthy environment to future generations. For example, our Nature & Trails Department manages nearly 1,500 acres of natural areas and 50 miles of trails. Management of these lands involves stewardship of plants, streams, ponds, habitat for wildlife and trees that are part of the urban tree canopy. HB 3016 provides much needed support for this work and we urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at a.panas@thprd.org or by phone at 503-816-5804, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicita Monteblanco".

Felicita Monteblanco
President, THPRD Board of Directors