



March 7, 2023

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Re: HB 3016 Community Green Infrastructure Program

Chair Marsh and Committee Members,

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), which serves all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River, provides technical services to protect and enhance soil and water quality 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. We would like to submit our letter of support for HB 3016.

HB 3016 has multiple benefits that are aligned with soil & water conservation districts across the state and will better position communities and residents to provide climate resilience and job training. For EMSWCD, the creation of an urban tree canopy tool could be crucial to our work in helping target tree planting, and the bill also considers other green infrastructure needs which could include placement of bioswales, creating more pervious hardscape and providing grant funding for our partners also working on these important issues. These are all critical to provide mitigation of urban heat islands, increase carbon sequestration, filter stormwater runoff to our streams and rivers, and reduce energy usage related to cooling of indoor spaces.

The Emerald Ash Borer technical assistance program would also be beneficial to SWCDs, as we could help implement proposed solutions to this increasing threat to our native Oregon Ash Tree, which is critical to the health of wetlands in western Oregon.

Finally, Section 3 of the bill calls for a task force to include 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 specifically be someone from an SWCD because we are uniquely positioned to contribute to the successful implementation of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky
Chair, EMSWCD Board of Directors