



CITY OF BEND

February 28, 2023

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CITY COUNCILORS

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Mike Riley

CITY MANAGER

Eric King

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

I am writing on behalf of the Bend City Council to state our support for House Bill 3016, which establishes a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program, a Community Green Infrastructure Fund, and a statewide tree canopy assessment tool. This Community Green Infrastructure Project, as it is described, improves access to green infrastructure and provides pathways for Oregonians to become involved in that positive change.

Over the last two years, the Bend City Council has prioritized goals related to our local environment and climate. One recent example of our efforts to pursue sustainable design occurred on our Newport Corridor Improvements project, where the stormwater planters installed will help protect the Deschutes River and its native residents. A statewide grant program will help communities design and fund projects like this, and more of them.

The final piece of HB3016 that I want to assert our emphatic support for is a statewide tree canopy assessment tool. This month, our City Council will begin reexamining our local tree code; having a tool that provides us with accurate, high-level data will empower good decision making that is grounded in fact and future planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "MK", written over a faint, illegible watermark.

Melanie Kebler
Mayor, City of Bend