

March 1, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy, and members of the committee.

I am a parent of two schoolchildren and have helped maintain our school trees for several years. We live in a low-canopy neighborhood and these trees provide valuable shade and serve as an educational resource.

I support HB 3016, the Trees Act. This bill has potential to help our state fill some major gaps that have resulted from decades of underinvestment in municipal tree care. Oregon communities need technical support, access to tree canopy data systems, ample climate-adapted trees grown in Oregon nurseries and a skilled workforce to prepare for a warmer, drier future.

We don't actually have enough people to do the maintenance that's needed to prep our protective urban canopy for the hot decades ahead. We need stronger Career Technical Education (CTE) programs for urban forestry that link to community college programs so we can increase the flow of (ideally BIPOC) apprentices to ISA certified arborists.

There is a precedent for public-private investment in rural forestry CTE programs, such as [Philomath](#) and [North Clackamas](#). Here's a 2015 [high school curriculum](#) for careers in rural forest management - we need one for urban forests, too.

I'm from Ohio, where every town & city manages street trees (unlike Oregon, where only Eugene and Corvallis do so). The workforce training system is fully built-out there. Please see an example from a [six-district collaboration](#). Here's a [report on model programs](#) around the US to help young people learn about green infrastructure careers.

I am concerned about the fragmented nature of workforce development planning & funding in our state and support any amendments that would strengthen HB 3016's ability to help to knit disparate parts together, rather than create a new, unrelated bucket.

Because 50% of the funds are designated for workforce projects, please add the Oregon Office of Workforce Development & Community Colleges and the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to Section 3.2 to really leverage knowledge and existing funding resources.

[BOLI has a Future Ready Oregon Grants Program](#) authorized by [SB 1545](#). In addition to health, construction, and manufacturing -- is there a way to add "green infrastructure" to the eligible workforce apprenticeship areas funded through this existing \$18.9M fund? Currently BOLI accepts green infrastructure grant applicants as meeting the "construction" criterion -- but it's not an intuitive fit.

Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Dev is involved in forecasting labor needs and could help determine where there is potential to grow high school - CC pathways in green infrastructure. (Another model might be the early childhood program at Mt. Hood CC specifically designed to help Latinx women earn credentials and complete ESL classes simultaneously.) The WorkSource program is, yet another entity to integrate.

This bill is very important for climate mitigation, adaptation, and for creating a hopeful future for our youth. I hope you will do everything possible to pass it. Thank you for your leadership on this!

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