

 **CONSOLIDATED OREGON
INDIVISIBLE NETWORK**

<https://www.coinoregon.org/>

COINLeadership@gmail.com

March 1, 2023

Re: HB 3016 -01 TREES or Green Infrastructure Act

Chair Pam Marsh, Vice Chair Bobby Levy, Vice Chair Emerson Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing today on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to express strong support for SB 3016 -01. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon that collaborate to protect democracy and implement progressive values through voter outreach and education, campaigns and elections, holding our elected leaders accountable, and advocating for legislation that best reflects our values.

HB 3016 is just such legislation. We have only one question about this bill: "Who wouldn't support it?"

There is ample research to demonstrate the multiple positive impacts a healthy tree canopy has on communities, including: mitigating the dangerous impacts of climate change and increasing community resiliency; improving our mental, physical, and emotional health; decreasing crime; increasing property value; and boosting our soil, air, and water quality.

But this bill does so much more. It incentivizes communities receiving these grants to hire locally for their green infrastructure projects, helping local economies. It provides the tools and technical assistance communities will need to successfully plan and implement their projects. And so critically, HB 3016 addresses the well-documented disparity in tree canopies, and all the benefits they deliver, between affluent neighborhoods and less affluent neighborhoods by giving priority to tree plantings near schools, affordable and senior housing developments, manufactured home and recreational vehicle parks, and public rights of way.

We congratulate those who so carefully crafted this bill. We urge the Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee to quickly pass this bill out of committee, and we urge the rest of our Oregon legislators to follow suit and vote for the trees and the green infrastructure their communities want and need.

Respectfully,

Deborah Ferrer
Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network