



To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
RE: Support of HB 3016

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3016. My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice.

As the climate crisis continues to worsen across the world and across our beloved home of Oregon, our families, children, and communities are experiencing more frequent extreme weather events like excessive heat. Heat events are affecting rural, urban, and coastal communities in a multitude of ways. Urban and suburban areas, especially, tend to have higher concentrations of buildings and other infrastructure that absorbs and re-emits heat more than natural landscapes. The combination of this infrastructure and limited greenery, like trees and vegetation, creates pockets of heat known as heat islands that have higher temperatures for longer durations than outlying areas.

The environment that our communities live in impacts their holistic wellbeing, from physical health to mental and emotional health. Extreme heat negatively affects community health and can be deadly. Additionally, heat islands disproportionately impact communities of color and lower-income communities, since these communities tend to live in areas that lack green infrastructure in contrast to more affluent and white neighborhoods.

To reduce the impacts of extreme heat and heat islands and promote the wellbeing of all residents, we must invest in green infrastructure which has been proven to cool temperatures and increase the quality of air in an area. HB 3016 will create the Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program to help fund community projects that can increase tree canopy and vegetation, improve the livability of our neighborhoods, and support air and water quality. HB 3016 will also create job opportunities for communities to engage in these projects and help connect individuals to the outdoors.

As an organization that strives to address institutional racism and economic disparities within our local and state systems and create viable pathways for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to obtain self-determination, justice, and access to opportunities, we ask that you advance HB 3016 to ensure Oregonians from every part of our state have access to green infrastructure to improve their wellbeing. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Thank you,

Sol Mora (she/her)  
Advocacy Director