



Oregon Just Transition Alliance

March 2, 2023

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

Re: House Bill 3016 - TREES (Trees Restoring Economic and Environmental Sustainability) Act

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

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation. I am writing today in support of HB 3016 and the forthcoming -1 amendments. The TREES Act will create funding for green infrastructure projects in communities across Oregon, a key component of community resilience against climate emergencies.

OJTA supports this bill because we know that heat islands and other negative effects of lack of green infrastructure disproportionately impact low-income and Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/e, Asian, Pacific Islander, and People of Color communities. Whether it be heat waves, drought, ice storms, or wildfires, the place we call home is where we take care of each other during the climate crisis. Green infrastructure provides communities with invaluable ecosystem services that clean our air, filter our water, mitigate natural disasters, and improve our quality of life. It also improves community resilience and climate impacts through carbon sequestration, often decreasing temperatures in the area.

HB 3016 creates a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program at the Department of Land Conservation and Development to fund communities to develop projects that increase tree canopy, improve livability, and support water quality and conservation which increases community resilience. Projects that are prioritized include school campuses, rights of way, projects with a workforce and economic development component, and projects in areas with low tree canopy or rural and remote areas.

This legislative session, we have an opportunity to make communities in every corner of the state more resilient by ensuring they have safe and affordable housing, access to clean energy,

and community support before, during, and after climate disasters, all while improving places where people live, work, and play. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3016 and I urge you to vote it out of committee.

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa
Executive Director
Oregon Just Transition Alliance