



American Planning Association  
Oregon Chapter

*Creating Great Communities for All*

March 3, 2023

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair  
Representative Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair  
Representative Emerson Levy, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of House Bill 3016 Green Infrastructure Program

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

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 3016.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

Our support of HB 3016 stems from the OAPA legislative priority policy that "Oregon Needs To Act Now To Confront Climate Change". We know that climate change impacts every Oregonian. Oregon is experiencing rising temperatures/ extreme heat; drought; flooding; wildfires; rising sea levels; vegetation changes; ocean acidification and slope instability. These impact Oregonians' homes; businesses; economies; public infrastructure and public health.

To help achieve this priority OAPA strongly supports bills that use State/Federal monies to fund local infrastructure projects that prioritize advancing climate change, resiliency, and equity. We also support bills that prioritize environmental justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility and that emphasize investment in green projects that benefit and elevate impacted communities and low-income households.

For these reasons OAPA supports HB 3016. Critical elements of the bill are:

- Establishing a grant program (DLCD administered) for offsetting the cost of planning and developing community green infrastructure and for providing the direct social, environmental and economic benefits to Oregon's communities in the form of climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, local jobs, health benefits and local food sovereignty.

- The development of the program in coordination/consultation with other State agencies: Forestry, Transportation, Health, Business Development, Labor and Industries, Agriculture, Watershed and Environmental Quality.
- That grant applications be for projects located in the state; that provide social, environmental or economic benefits to an environmental justice community; and are developed in coordination with an environmental justice community that will benefit from the completion of the project.
- Employing community members in the development, construction, planting or maintenance of the projects
- Establishing a dedicated Fund and using at least 50 percent of those funds for grants awarded for planning or developing workforce development projects; and that at least 25 percent be allocated for projects in rural communities or remote communities
- Establishment of a Task Force with a robust membership requirement. OAPA especially appreciates that in addition to local government/district, industry, and green infrastructure expertise members there will also be tribal government; environmental justice organization; public/community health expert; public or community health expert; green workforce/enterprise development expert; and community-led green infrastructure project expert members.
- OAPA also supports the State Forestry Department acquiring and maintaining a statewide urban tree canopy assessment tool. And providing assistance to responding to and recovering from damage to habitats and urban tree canopies due to emerald ash borer infestation.

Many OAPA members, and the local communities they work for, have long recognized the value of developing green infrastructure. HB 3016 articulates the considerable benefits of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience; stormwater management; air temperature regulation; air quality benefits; noise abatement; energy savings; economic development opportunities; health benefits; and local food sovereignty.

Oregonians will benefit from the enactment of HB 3016 and, importantly, as will Oregon's environmental justice and rural communities.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to express OAPA's support of HB 3016.

Sincerely,

*Kevin C. Cook*

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