



March 4, 2023
House Committee Climate, Energy, Environment

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and committee members, my name is Karen Harrington and I'm speaking in support of HB3016 on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter.

HB3016 establishes a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program, a Community Green Infrastructure Fund, and a Community Green Infrastructure Task Force.

I suspect we've all had the experience on a hot summer day of walking down the sidewalk and upon reaching the shade of a beautiful tree immediately feeling the relief from the heat. Green Infrastructure at its most basic.

Trees clean and cool the air, they keep our homes cool, they capture rainwater to reduce flooding and replenish aquifers, they are a natural carbon sink, and it has been well documented that trees reduce depression and anxiety, especially in our children.

Green Infrastructure includes permeable surfaces reducing stormwater runoff and naturally storing and cleaning water as it percolates down. It can encourage regenerative food production, replenishing soil to reduce climate change, help regulate temperature, save farmers money, and provide public health benefits.

HB3016 is a whole of government approach, a smart way to address a problem that impacts our economy providing jobs, productive farming and ranching, and an adequate and trained workforce, our physical and mental health, our homes and businesses, and our natural surroundings. The Department of Land Conservation and Development will coordinate with the State Forestry Department and consult with the Department of Transportation, the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Business Development Department, the Bureau of Labor and Industries, the State Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Department of Environmental Quality in the design and implementation of this program.

This is a bill that will make our communities more livable, that will provide social, environmental and economic benefits focused on environmental justice communities.

Oregon must reduce GHG emissions – to meet our climate goals and to do our part in creating a more climate friendly and equitable world for future generations.

We encourage your support of HB3016!

Thank you,

Karen Harrington
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter
Legislative Committee, Co-Chair

About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions.

For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at www.climaterealityproject.org.