



NETWORK of OREGON

WATERSHED COUNCILS

March 8th, 2023

To: The Oregon Legislature House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: **Support** for **HB3016**, Relating to green infrastructure.

Greetings, Chair Marsh:

The [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](#) (NOWC) represents **55 watershed councils** statewide, which are local, community-based, non-regulatory groups that assess and monitor environmental conditions, and conduct voluntary conservation projects to restore/enhance the waters and lands for native species and people.

Each watershed council is familiar with their particular ecological habitats' features, and works to understand and address specific challenges, usually focusing on rivers or creeks and the lands that drain into them. Watershed councils partner with community stakeholders such as landowners, companies/industries, municipal/state agencies. Since 1997, the Oregon legislature has encouraged local governments to form watershed councils through [Oregon Statute 541.910](#).

NOWC supports HB3016 as the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Grant Program would advance rural and urban watershed council restoration projects statewide.

Watershed councils currently conduct a wide range of conservation and restoration projects that align with the focus of the proposed Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program, such as invasive weed management that supports our tree canopies, and native plantings in riparian zones that resist drought and support pollinators. This bill would support our work with local communities in making effective and equitable plans for climate change resiliency.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vanessa Green
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