

Submitter: Jeremy Hart  
On Behalf Of: Jade District  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: HB3016

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

Our names are Alisa Kajikawa and Jeremy Hart, we are writing to you today in support of HB 3016 as representatives from the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and the Jade District. In respect to greening and environmental quality the Jade District exemplifies many of the challenges felt throughout East Portland. The neighborhood is found at the crossroads of two major transportation corridors (82nd & Division) and is in close proximity to the I205 freeway. This close proximity to transportation has led to heightened levels of pollutants in the air, water, and soil of the neighborhood. A resident raised concerns of the soot they could see accumulating in their front yard where they often allow their children to play and which they felt should be safe from exposure to harmful pollutants. The impacts of having so many impermeable surfaces combined with a lack of vegetation in the neighborhood has created a heat island effect. During extreme heat events temperatures get higher in the Jade District and last longer than in areas of the city where tree canopy has been invested in and maintained. Access to cooling resources like A/C are limited here, but even for those who are fortunate enough to have this resource they may choose to endure higher temperatures because of the energy burden which would be created.

We urge the committee to advocate for not only the implementation of new trees and green infrastructure but also the maintenance and monitoring of existing trees. The cost of mature tree maintenance is high but these mature trees provide the greatest benefit to communities in terms of shade and lessening the impact of the heat island phenomena. Years of disinvestment have left many of the existing trees in the neighborhood in need of maintenance. This maintenance is vital to ensuring the trees we have today remain healthy and are able to grow to maturity. The high cost of tree maintenance creates an economic barrier for both residents and small businesses in the community which we hope this bill can help address.

Thank you for your time and please vote in favor of HB3016.

Sincerely,  
Alisa and Jeremy