

Chairs Steiner and Sanchez; Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith; Members of the Committee: My name is Eduardo Melendrez and I live in Ontario Oregon. I'm here in support of HB 3016 TREES Act. HB 3016 will direct the State Forestry Department to restore the millions of trees we've lost. This crucial step will preserve our tree canopy, which plays a vital role in mitigating climate change and supporting the health and well-being of our communities. As an Eastern Oregon high desert community that experiences extreme heat, we would greatly benefit from HB 3016. Marginalized community members many who live in poverty would also be able access more safe green space. HB 3016 improves the quality of life in neighborhoods by providing green spaces for recreation and reducing the urban heat island effect. I hope you consider supporting HB 3016 as it would create a more equitable, safe, green Oregon for all.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Melendrez