



**Commissioner Nick Fish**  
City of Portland

January 21, 2014

Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Program  
600 NE Grand  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Re: Letter of Support for Dharma Rain Capital Grant Application

Dear Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant panel,

I write to express my enthusiastic support for Dharma Rain Zen Center's Siskiyou Pathway Project. As Commissioner-in-Charge of the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), I am pleased with Dharma Rain's dedication to ecological stewardship.

BES has been working with Dharma Rain for over eighteen months on the overall restoration and development of the site. BES staff have been inspired by the Dharma Rain's dedication and attention to detail.

BES is partnering with the Siskiyou Pathway Project in several ways. The Portland Brownfield Program has offered support with technical issues, and provided financial support for the assessment and cleanup work, which will ensure that the site is environmentally safe for workers and future uses. BES facility management personnel are also coordinating with Dharma Rain on the restoration efforts and the portion of the pathway that goes through the Russell Pond stormwater facility.

There are many important benefits of the pathway. The site is currently a brownfield. Dharma's project will remove what has long been an eyesore and hazard, while offering a positive, community-oriented resource. In addition, the pathway will help connect neighborhoods to each other, and to surrounding greenspaces like Rocky Butte, Gateway Green, Glenhaven Park, and Dharma Rain's own community garden, orchard, and park areas. This will make the neighborhood more livable in terms of beauty, health, safety and social connection.

Finally, I applaud the grassroots character of the project, including their extensive community engagement, which is already bringing more optimism to a distressed area of Portland.

Dharma Rain is committed to improving the land and to creating a resource for the region. I urge the Nature in the Neighborhood Capital Grant Program to provide full funding for the Siskiyou Pathway.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Fish". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Nick Fish