



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner  
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

February 5, 2020

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
900 Court Street NE, Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

Homeownership is a primary wealth building strategy and families of color in Oregon have been adversely affected by discriminatory policies and practices creating unequal access to homeownership. For this reason, the City of Portland urges your support for HB 4003.

Locally, Portland homeownership has been and continues to be a challenge as home prices continue to climb—outpacing incomes for many households. While incomes have risen overall, disparities in income growth by race and ethnicity persist, with median income levels increasing significantly among White households compared to Non-White households.

Additionally, households from communities of color continue to experience disproportionately low homeownership rates when compared to White households or the population as whole. White households make up nearly 83% of owner-occupied households. Fair housing requires us to investigate disparities in housing access and a recent fair housing testing report for the Portland area shows that there is still work to be done.

Since its inception, the Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership has engaged in critical and long overdue discussions around policies to reverse the historical inequities. Their work to better understand, confront, and address racial disparities is essential to closing the homeownership gap.

We urge your support for this critical policy and the continued work of the Task Force. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner