

Dear Representatives,

While I agree that emergency preparedness and upgrading structures for a seismic disaster is important, I object to the measure as introduced because it singles out preference for grants to organizations that represent minorities. This kind of virtue signaling does not belong codified into our legislative law. I.e: (4) In awarding grants under the program, the department shall give priority to grants for:

(a) Eligible property owned by, or primarily benefitting, a nonprofit corporation as defined in ORS 65.001 that primarily serves members of black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities, individuals of Middle Eastern descent, members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ) communities, immigrants, refugees, members of tribal communities and persons with disabilities; and

You forgot to add Individuals of Asian descent, individuals of Scandinavian descent. Once you start singling out minorities to preference where will it end? Will every non-profit in the state get their sliver of grant money? \$5 each? And in communities that have only 1 church or grange which benefits the whole community including a few families that fit your virtuous criteria but who aren't the 'primary benefitters' - will those communities lose the opportunities from your grant money because they are too integrated?

Similarly your proposal begins with the State Police having to coordinate with community based organizations and faith-based organizations. That sounds reasonable. Then it goes on to single out our current list of virtue signaling: "Multijurisdictional cooperation developed under this paragraph must include organizations that represent black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities, individuals of Middle Eastern descent, members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ) communities, immigrants, refugees, members of tribal communities and persons with disabilities." I am imagining the State Police in Harney County desperately searching for a Black, a Native, a Latino, an Jew (or is Middle Eastern descent code for Muslim?) a gay person, a Samoan or Vietnamese refugee, and anyone missing a limb or somehow disabled ... it sounds like the beginning of a bad joke. Shouldn't you include Sikh, Uiger, and many other oppressed minorities too? Do they only get preferential treatment if they are tearing up our streets in Portland?

Please keep the virtue signaling out of our legislature. Treat people as equals, and let's strive for equality, not equity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Childs,

a gay, professional, business owner who would rather be treated equally than preferentially