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CITY OF

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**  
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner  
Dan Ryan, Commissioner  
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner  
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

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May 6, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE, HR F  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports of SJM 4 which calls on Congress to pass House Resolution 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. For our state and country to begin to heal from the traumas of slavery and advance toward an anti-racist future, we must begin to make amends for past damages to Black and Indigenous people in the United States and here in Oregon. This begins with establishing a system for reparations toward those still suffering from the ramifications of a system created to oppress.

The enduring effects of slavery and racism are undeniable. The consequences are far reaching, and have generational impacts on economic, social, and educational opportunities for many in our communities. Reparations should improve the lives of Black and Indigenous people in the United States for future generations to come, foster economic, social and political parity, and allow for full rights of self-determination. For many, these reparations will be a significant step toward a government and country that values every resident, regardless of skin color, socio-economic background, or country of origin.

The City of Portland urges your support of SJM 4. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor

Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner

Dan Ryan  
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner

Mingus Mapps  
Commissioner