



Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 79

The Hillsboro City Council recognizes the legacy of discriminatory housing policies at the federal, state and local level that have resulted in drastic inequities in homeownership nationwide – advantaging White households over households of color. Addressing these inequities has been a Council priority for the last few years and in response, the City is dedicating half of our federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds (\$400k+ annually) for an affordable homeownership program in partnership with Proud Ground that focuses on serving Communities of Color.

In Hillsboro, 57 percent of White families own their own home compared to 38 percent of Black, 34 percent of Native American, 33 percent of Latinx, and 14 percent of Pacific Islander families. Our homeownership program has been in effect for two years and in that time it has provided grants for 12 households, half of those being awarded to Black, Latinx and Asian households, for a total of \$1.2 million in grant funds.

Any additional funding through the State will amplify local efforts in Hillsboro and in communities across Oregon. This alignment of state and local efforts will provide a greater opportunity for wealth generation and the positive outcomes that flow from economic prosperity and social stability for communities who have borne the brunt of decades of discriminatory housing policies at every level of government.

For those reasons the City of Hillsboro strongly supports SB 79 and encourages your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Callaway'.

Mayor Steve Callaway
City of Hillsboro