



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

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

February 8, 2022

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court St. NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports SB 1579, the Equity Investment Act. The City is advocating for anti-racist public policy and budget allocations that advance equitable outcomes for Oregonians. Since the 2020 session, the City has participated in the Coalition that crafted SB 1579 and unequivocally supports the policy and budget allocation contained in the bill.

We recognize and acknowledge the impacts of policy and budget decisions that lead to inequitable outcomes and are actively engaged in evaluating and challenging our own practices here at the City, while advocating for the state government to prioritize legislation that does not exacerbate existing inequities and works to repair past harms. The City's Social Equity & Educational Development (SEED) Grant Fund, now in its fourth year, specifically prioritizes BIPOC and women-owned small business initiatives and projects, programs or services that support economic and educational development of BIPOC communities, which were most impacted by cannabis prohibition. These efforts are one small step for the City in acknowledging and addressing the decades of harm caused to Black, Indigenous, and communities of color by cannabis criminalization and stigmatization.

Over four decades of over-policing, discriminatory policies, and the War on Drugs have exacerbated wealth disparities for Oregon's Black, Indigenous, Latinx and communities of color. The Equity Investment Act delivers on our shared commitment to economic justices by refocusing resources in communities and individuals who have been disproportionately impacted by providing grants to culturally responsive, community-based organizations that support entrepreneurship, workforce development, and pathways to home and land ownership

We respectfully urge your support of SB 1579.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Carmen Rubio
Commissioner

Dan Ryan
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Mingus Mapps
Commissioner