



ROOTEDHOMES

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[L.ORG](http://rootedhomes.org)

Testimony of Jacquelyn Keogh, Executive Director

In Support of HB 4041

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

February 8, 2024

Chair Bynum and the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business. Thank you for allowing me to submit today this testimony in support of House Bill 4041.

As the Executive Director of a Central Oregon affordable housing non-profit, I believe that economic justice and equity is essential for the future prosperity of our state. In Central Oregon, there is no public grant funding for affordable housing developers to purchase land or improve it. This lack of funding is one of the biggest impediments to the supply of affordable housing development and causes a severe underproduction of affordable housing that hurts both residents and the economy of Central Oregon. Business Oregon's EEIP grant to RootedHomes is breaking down these barriers. Thanks to the EEIP funds, RootedHomes has been able to purchase two parcels of land in Central Oregon for BIPOC households with low incomes.

The Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP), created in 2022, directed Business Oregon to provide one-time funding to community-based organizations with solutions that build generational wealth for communities experiencing multiple economic risk factors. The results are now in and the EEIP has become a proven model to advance equitable economic development across our entire state.

That is why it is so important to me and my Central Oregon community that you support House Bill 4041. With the aforementioned support, we will be able to support 40 households. A continued investment in EEIP would allow us to scale that number to better meet the need.

Thank you,

Jackie Keogh, Executive Director
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