



2/8/2024

RE: Support Statement HB 4097

Dear Members of the House Committee On Judiciary,

East County Rising Community Projects is in support of HB4097 and a proud coalition member of Clean Slate Oregon. HB4097 will remove technical barriers, establish clear timelines and remove fines and fees from barring someone from clearing their record who would otherwise be eligible for expungement.

East County Rising Community Projects (ECRCP) organizes and builds grassroots leadership within East Multnomah County to create an equitable and livable community and amplify the voices of the most underrepresented and marginalized residents.

Our geographic focus aims to address the social and economic disparities between the eastern and western halves of Multnomah County, the most populated county in Oregon. We use the term “East County” to refer to the portion of Multnomah County that lies east of 82nd Avenue, including East Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, and beyond.

We focus our work in East County because our region has some of the highest rates of poverty in Oregon, due to the comparative lack of historical investment and services by governments and corporations.

East County is also one of the most racially and ethnically diverse areas in Oregon, with some of the most diverse zip codes and over 70 languages spoken. Nearly 40% of its residents are Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. One in five East County residents were born outside the United States. With this in mind, we apply an intersectional framework to our organizing that incorporates race, class, gender, sexuality, immigration status, age, disability, and lived experiences. In other words, we believe in the power of solidarity against oppression, and we strive to center people with the greatest needs in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Huy Ong
Board President
East County Rising Community Projects