

Submitter: Mark Kille

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

It is very simple. Since Oregon's founding, Black Oregonians were denied equal rights and protections under the law. Local and state government made policy and enabled non-government actors to ensure that Black gains never caused discomfort to the white majority. This had measurable material impacts on Black communities and individuals. It mocks the spirit of the law, and possibly its historical letter as well, not to make them and their descendants whole. Since these governments have maintained institutional continuity, it is entirely appropriate to come to current governments for restitution— they are, in every sense, the same entity that caused or permitted the wrongs. I personally favor direct financial remedies, but if Black communities themselves determine that non-financial remedies are advisable, all of Oregon should follow their lead. Thank you.