



To: Chair Keny-Guyer, House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
From: Margaret Tallmadge, Coalition of Communities of Color

March 7, 2017

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) expresses our support for HB 2006- limiting the state's Mortgage Interest Deduction and directing the savings to better meet the needs of all Oregonians. Lawmakers should not continue to subsidize wealthy homeowners with this expensive tax giveaway while families across the state are struggling to find a safe, affordable place to live.

The CCC is an alliance of 19 culturally-specific and pan-immigrant and refugee community based organizations working to advance racial justice by addressing socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity in services.

Families of color are disproportionately impacted by this affordable housing crisis- often spending more than 30% or 50% of their income on housing costs. Because of the housing shortage, many low-income families across the state are struggling to find any affordable housing options. HB 2006 would limit the deduction on primary residences to a maximum of \$15,000 annually and steps that number down as incomes increase. The bill would also eliminate the mortgage deduction entirely on second homes and for wealthy households with incomes over \$200,000 per year. There's nothing wrong with providing support through the tax code. But, lawmakers should not continue to subsidize wealthy homeowners, especially those who can afford a second home, while, at the same time, considering devastating cuts to critical programs that disproportionately impact communities of color. We're calling on lawmakers to make a better choice.

The Coalition of Communities of Color hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to improve racial equity by passing HB 2006, a common-sense reform to the Mortgage Interest Deduction, and reinvesting those resources in improving access to safe, affordable housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Tallmadge".

Margaret Tallmadge  
Environmental Justice Manager  
Coalition of Communities of Color

