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CITY OF

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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

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March 11, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee,  
900 Court St. NE, HR F  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports the Oregon Cannabis Equity Act (HB 3112) to provide equal opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x ownership in the growing cannabis industry and to invest in communities disproportionately impacted by over-policing and cannabis criminalization. The City of Portland is advocating for anti-racist public policy and budget allocations that advance equitable outcomes for Oregonians. Since last year, the City has participated in the Coalition that crafted this legislation and unequivocally supports the policies contained in the bill.

HB 3112 creates a statewide social equity framework for licensing, expungement, and reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue in Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x communities. This comprehensive framework extends beyond cannabis business licensing and includes institutional policy changes and refocusing resources in communities and individuals who have been disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis.

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) Initiatives launched in 2020 as our cannabis program's vehicle for monitoring, measuring and reporting on the City's three percent cannabis excise tax return on equity investment. The 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.

As we continue to expand our cannabis equity initiatives, the City of Portland is excited about the opportunity to establish a statewide equity framework that actively works to repair harm from the racially-biased enforcement of cannabis prohibition. We urge your support of HB 3112.

Sincerely,



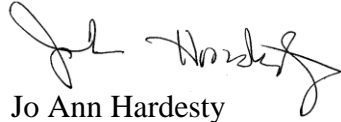
Ted Wheeler  
Mayor



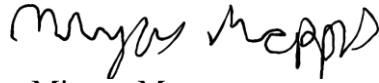
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