



To: Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

RE: SB 1 – Support

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Creeana Bort, I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, and I represent the NAYA Action Fund located in Portland, OR. Founded by the community for the community, NAYA Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization with a mission to expand political advocacy and build electoral power in partnership with the Native community. The NAYA Action Fund provides tools to shape public policy, cultivate leadership, and elect champions for issues impacting Native people. Our vision of systemic change is youth-centered, family driven, and elder guided. I write in support of SB 1.

Current data shows that communities of color are disproportionately and negatively impacted by tax breaks when compared to their white counterparts. Tax breaks like the child tax credit, earned income tax credit, and other subsidies are put in place to help families experiencing hardships put money back in their pockets. The data shows that white individuals often benefit more than communities of color when it comes to mortgage tax breaks, leading us to the conclusion once again, that our tax system is preventing our communities from asset building and accumulating generational wealth. We need to understand how our tax system can break free from perpetuating this systemic racism – Senate Bill 1 works toward this goal.

The bill would give the option for individuals to identify their race and ethnicity on their Oregon personal income tax forms. By allowing this data to be collected, we can begin to look at how to dismantle the racism intrinsically woven into our tax system, and the race-related distributional impacts. We can begin to understand tax policy and how to move forward in creating a tax system that is equitable for all Oregonians.

We urge you to acknowledge the systemic racism in our tax systems while ensuring proper data collection of racial data on personal income tax forms. On behalf of the NAYA Action Fund, we ask for the passage of Senate Bill 1. It's time we modernize our tax systems to include our most marginalized communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Creeana Bort". The signature is written in black ink on a white rectangular background.

Creeana Bort
Policy and Advocacy Organizer
NAYA Action Fund