



## Operation H.O.M.E. Call in Support of House Bill 3551

April 26, 2007

Dear Legislator:

Operation Home Ownership & Minority Equity (Operation H.O.M.E.) is a 10-year initiative of the City of Portland and Portland Development Commission, focused on closing the home ownership gap for communities of color.

As members of Operation H.O.M.E.'s Steering Committee, we look for opportunities to adopt industry and community vetted strategies to promote homeownership opportunities and initiatives that support Operation HOME goals.

Unfortunately, for too many Oregon families the dream of homeownership remains a distant reality. For minority families, this fact is even greater. Hard working people should be able to afford housing and still have money for food and other necessities. Children do better in school when they have a safe, stable place to call home. With this in mind, House Bill 3551 was introduced at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Revenue on behalf of the statewide Housing Alliance. This bill increases the fee for the recording of documents in deed and mortgage records of the county and directs the county clerk to transfer these additional funds to the Housing and Community Services Department to fund housing programs statewide.

Housing and Community Services Department will allocate funds as follows:

- 70.75 percent of the moneys must be deposited in the Housing Development and Guarantee Account to fund housing development activities and capacity building;
- 10 percent of the moneys must be deposited in the Emergency Housing Account;
- 13.25 percent must be deposited in the Home Ownership Assistance Account; and

House Bill 3551 is projected to raise about \$30 million in the 2007-2009 biennium and then be an ongoing source of funds. Of the moneys received, 13.25 percent will be allocated to support homeownership activities throughout the state. The bill also calls out the urgent need to address the minority homeownership gap. It is anticipated that these funds, available through Housing and Community Services, would be allocated using a competitive RFP. The funds will support important homeownership activities such as counseling, down payment assistance, credit repair, construction subsidy, etc.



Across Oregon, housing prices in the private market are out of reach of ordinary people. As leaders representing a wide spectrum of industries, we support House Bill 3551. This will generate new sources of funds for housing and it will enable local communities meet their housing needs.

We urge you to approve House Bill 3551 and assist in making homeownership a reality.

Sincerely,

Operation H.O.M.E. Steering Committee Members [signed]