Kate Brown
Governor

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Testimony in support of HB 2734
Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 1 pm, HR A
House Committee on Revenue

Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chairs Bentz and Vega Pederson, and Representatives Davis, Johnson, Lininger, Read, Smith Warner and Whitsett:

The Oregon Commissions on Black Affairs and Hispanic Affairs urge your positive consideration of HB 2734 which allows municipalities to acquire contaminated land, restore it and repurpose it with the help of tax incentives and other tools associated with establishing a land bank.

The OCBA and OCHA have a long standing interest in addressing the environmental hazards that affect the health of communities of color and blight poor neighborhoods. These hazards reduce the potential of an area while taking key pieces of property out of the economic and social life of cities and towns. Every part of Oregon shares this issue; rural and urban alike. The effect is the same everywhere.

While the positive effect on struggling neighborhoods will be great, providing municipalities with the tools to remediate this land and return it as a useful part of neighborhood and town life is important to all of Oregon's citizens and cities large and small.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2734.

Sincerely,

James Manning, Chair
OCBA

Alberto Moreno, Chair
OCHA