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Legislature Poised to Support Albina Vision Trust to Help Rebuild Northeast Portland Neighborhood

The money will help redevelop the Portland Public Schools headquarters, build 1,000 housing units in the historically Black neighborhood

SALEM, OR – To support efforts to rebuild the historically Black Albina neighborhood in North and Northeast Portland, legislators are poised to allocate \$25 million to the Albina Vision Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing this neighborhood through public and private partnerships.

The funds are a part of the \$376 million Emergency Housing Stability and Production Package ([Senate Bill 1537](#), [Senate Bill 1530](#) and [House Bill 4134](#)), which is scheduled to be heard by the Joint Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

"There is a lot I'm proud of in the Emergency Housing Stabilization and Production Package, but I'm particularly excited that we will be sending \$25 million to the Albina Vision Trust to redevelop the former Portland Public Schools Headquarters," said **Sen. Kayse Jama (D-Portland)**, chair of the Senate Housing and Development Committee. "This critical funding will give the state the opportunity to heal the harms of historically racist land-use decisions by investing in the historically Black Albina neighborhood, which has been fractured by redlining and the construction of Interstate 5."

The funding would assist Albina Vision Trust in its purchase of the 10.5-acre Dr. Matthew Prophet Education Center, a property central to the neighborhood, which overlooks the Willamette River.

"The passage of SB 1530 represents an urgent and transformational investment in the multi-generational effort to rebuild Albina. We asked our state leaders to meet the moment and they delivered with decisive action that will build the Oregon of tomorrow," said **Winta**

Yohannes, executive director of the Albina Vision Trust. "Together, we will catalyze the development of over 1,000 units of housing built along the banks of the Willamette River and intentionally designed to generate prosperity, joy and belonging."

The project envisioned by Albina Vision Trust would convert the aging building into affordable housing units, an education hub, communal green spaces and mixed-use commercial opportunities. The Albina neighborhood would be a riverfront destination for Oregonians to live, work and play.

"The investments being made will transform the northeast side of our city in the years to come. Albina Vision Trust's leadership is critical to celebrating our vibrant and diverse community while working earnestly to create the city we all deserve while intentionally working to repair past harm," said **Rep. Maxine Dexter (D-Portland)**, chair of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness. "It is imperative that investments the legislature makes in housing and community spaces prioritize those parts of Oregon that have been historically under-resourced."

Albina has a long and dynamic history dating back to the early 20th century. It housed one of the top jazz destinations along the West Coast, was a hub for civil rights organizing and, during World War II, received an influx of Black workers who built ships at the shipyards. In the 1960s, 80% of Portland's Black population lived in the neighborhood.

"It is exciting to see a look to the future for Albina and the area around the Coliseum," said **Sen. Lew Frederick (D-Portland)**. "After a decades-long struggle, the Black community is creating its vision for the future. Not only physically reconnecting the Lloyd Center and the Emanuel Hospital areas to the river, but spiritually connecting with the many families who were moved out of the area."

During the 1950s and 1960s, racist urban renewal policies displaced families and disrupted this vibrant community. Properties were condemned for cents on the dollar. Thousands of homes were destroyed to build Interstate 5, Veterans Memorial Coliseum and the Portland Public Schools headquarters facility.

"This is a crucial amount of money that will help secure what the Black community in Northeast Portland has been working to give back for years," said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. "Our investment now in the project that the Albina Vision Trust is moving forward will have a significant impact well into the future for the Black community in Portland."

"As a Legislature, we spend taxpayer dollars on projects that we believe will have extraordinary community impact. Albina Vision Trust's plan to revitalize this historic neighborhood will move us toward a more vibrant, just, and equitable Portland for all who live there," said **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)**.