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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
ORGANIZATION



LatinoNetwork



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APANO
COMMUNITIES UNITED FUND



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The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of The United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Cc: Oregon's Federal Delegation and United States Attorney Erik Asphaug

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned organizations representing communities of color in the State of Oregon, write today in the wake of yet another domestic terrorist attack on communities of color by a white supremacist to urge you to immediately increase your administration's investment into combating white supremacy and far right extremists around the country and especially here in Oregon.

The attack on a Black community on May 14 in Buffalo, New York is not isolated. It was not the work of a lone wolf or lone gunman. It is, rather, the most recent symptom of white supremacy enacted through political and violent force. And although it is geographically far from our state, this attack strikes close to our hearts. **Oregon, which has a shameful legacy of white supremacy, now ranks sixth in the nation for violent extremist attacks.** Our community members are forced to bear the harm of increasing violence and threats from the white supremacist insurgency within our state borders.

The time for action is now. Oregon is highly vulnerable to an attack just like what we saw in Buffalo—and saw in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, El Paso, Orlando, Charleston and so many other communities. Thoughts, prayers, and condemnations will not keep our elders safe as they shop for groceries, or our kids safe as they play at their schools, or our brothers and sisters safe as they simply go about their day, living their lives in bodies that make them targets for racist violence. We need investment, we need partnership, and we need our federal government to treat the white supremacist insurgency targeting communities for what it is: an existential threat to our way of life.

On your recent visit to our state, you highlighted the important investments your administration is making in infrastructure. We applaud and welcome these investments. Oregon also needs a significant increase in the infrastructure of safety. We are calling on your administration to

immediately increase spending on federal investigative, monitoring, surveillance and prosecutorial resources dedicated to combatting white supremacist individuals and organizations based here in Oregon. We know these resources are available and we have witnessed federal law enforcement agencies use them effectively against communities of color in our state. It is time for the U.S. government to use these resources to *protect* our communities and combat the true threat of white supremacy.

We also ask for an investment in community-based organizations to combat white supremacy through increased resources to build strong communities through improving health, wealth and community safety. The solution to the threat of white nationalist violence is long term—it requires a massive culture shift and a reckoning with the racism at the root of this Nation and the structural white supremacy that impacts our communities every day. But our communities cannot afford to wait generations for safety.

We ask for a \$100 million investment in Oregon split between federal agencies and community-based organizations to immediately increase your work in partnership with Oregon's communities of color, the organizations that serve them, and the organizations working to combat this threat.

We stand ready to ready for meaningful partnership and look forward to hearing from your administration.

Respectfully,



Tony DeFalco
Executive Director
Latino Network



Lee Po Cha
Executive Director
Immigrant and Refugee
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