

My name is Hongcheng Zhao, President and Chairperson of Oregon Chinese Coalition. I would like to make the following statement on behalf of the community.

No one should live in fear in our community and in this great country.

It is extremely unfortunate that during this pandemic, people have been preoccupied and distracted from the devastating effects of anti-Asian racism and prejudice. With heartbreaking stories documenting Asian hate crimes appearing more frequently, the Asian community is being faced with the impact not only of the virus itself, but also the racial ignorance and inequality, in addition to the judicial system not doing enough on pressing the charges against those who clearly break the laws.

As a community, Asians and Asian Americans have been harassed, scapegoated, and simply devastated by the anti-Asian sentiment, which has been elevated by this pandemic. We want to express our profound empathy and respect for victim for what he has undergone, both physically and emotionally. Experiencing racial prejudice anywhere should not be tolerated; Mr. Hutchens' undeniable disrespect comes with an additional level of hostility, casting a shadow on our invaluable public transportation by spreading the fear and insecure feeling. As a community organization, with its community members, we will continue to support those facing the hate crimes.

We hope this court and this community clearly show the intolerance of Mr. Hutchens' actions and make their decisions accordingly. Thank you!