

From: Maria Guerra
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1, Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit (AWHOTC)
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 5:43:52 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Committee,

The Farmworker Housing Dev. Corporation has been building affordable housing for farmworkers for 25 years; our Mission is not only to provide affordable housing is create a sense of community where people can thrive and succeed. I cannot event start explaining the need for Senate Bill 1, Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit (AWHOTC), it touches not only entire families with kids but also Oregon's economy. The agricultural business in Oregon is around 5.4 billion that helps to provide food and jobs for our residents. The Senate Bill 1, Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit (AWHOTC) will help all of us to preserve and improve our housing services. The credit will provide additional resources with minimal administrative costs to the state. The tax credit will leverage private as well as existing federal and state sources.

Also please consider the following information:

- There are more than 200,000 agricultural workers and family members living in Oregon. 10,572 of these live in registered farm labor camps. Nearly 1,408 units of affordable housing that is either restricted to or has a preference for agricultural workers provides another 6,336 agricultural worker family members with safe, decent and affordable housing.

Finally, I would like to mention some of the benefits of this bill:

- Employers benefit by having a stably housed workforce. Oregon's thriving agricultural economy depends on a stable workforce.
- The credit will allow owners and operators to receive a tax credit for certain **operational costs** (utilities, maintenance, etc.), making it easier for organizations to continue to provide services and housing.
- The average farmworker income is about \$12,000-20,000 (depending on whether migrant, season or year round worker). Using the statewide Area Median Income (AMI) of \$54,148, this means that households earning 22-37% of AMI will benefit from this credit.

Thank you,

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