



Testimony in Support of HB 2237 House Committee on Revenue

February 28, 2019

Chair Nathason, Vice Chairs Findley and Marsh and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa Rogers, Deputy Director of CASA of Oregon.

CASA of Oregon's mission is deeply rooted in service to farmworkers and other low-income populations throughout Oregon. We seek to improve the lives of Oregonians by building affordable housing, neighborhood facilities and programs that increase families' financial well-being. We are a nonprofit community development organization that works to support thriving communities by working with local nonprofits, housing authorities and local government.

For 30 years, CASA has had at its core **service to farmworkers**. Whether it is providing housing in the community or helping farmers fix up their labor camps, our focus has always been on improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Ensuring the health and welfare of the those harvesting our crops has been of paramount concern to CASA and our partner organizations.

HB 2237 extends the sunset on the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit and creates a new tax credit that will help cover the costs of operating farmworker housing. While the tax credit has helped house some four thousand farmworkers and their families to have safe, decent and affordable housing, many thousands more live in crowded, substandard conditions

HB 2237 is the culmination of a years-long collaboration by CASA, PCUN, Oregon Farm Bureau and Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers. The new credit would complement the existing tax credit and would incentivize people to provide housing to agricultural workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and CASA urges you to **vote yes on HB 2237**.