



March 26, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Attention: Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee.

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee:

I am writing this letter in support of passage of SB 5512. I am the Executive Director of Oregon Human Development Corporation, OHDC, a Community Action Network member and a statewide Farmworker Service agency. Our agency serves farmworkers across Oregon to help them meet their housing needs as well as provide culturally appropriate workforce services.

There are an estimated 55,000 farmworkers and their family members living in poverty in Oregon. OHDC is advocating for additional funding for all OHCS programs addressing our state's housing crisis, we are particularly advocating for additional investments in Oregon's Emergency Housing Assistance and State Homeless Assistance Programs, and any other investments that will end homelessness for farmworker children and farmworker families. These specific resources provide for the development of innovative strategies to best address the needs of families at-risk of homelessness and families who are homeless, so they may quickly stabilize their housing situation. These resources provide flexibility to allow homeless families to first access from warming centers, shelters and day centers (locations used during the day by those without housing in which to obtain services), then move on to transitional or permanent affordable housing and finally obtain market-rate housing. These resources also play a critical role in bringing together partner agencies to address the various issues associated with the lack of stable housing, and to maximize positive outcomes for those in need of housing.

These funds allow farmworkers across Oregon to access critical housing services. The passage of SB5512 will allow an expansion of these services and ensure that a greater number of farmworkers will be able to access these services.

OHDC strongly encourages the passage of SB5512.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Campos-Davis".

Martin Campos-Davis
Executive Director