



## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 8 Senate Committee on Housing

March 1, 2019

Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod and Members of the Committee

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 8.

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.

Over the years, much of the housing we have constructed for farmworkers has faced some type of opposition. The opposition comes in many forms. Sometimes the opposition is towards the type of housing (multi-family), the occupants (farmworkers) or its location. All too often, the opposition to the people who toil in the fields put food on our tables is because they don't look like us. They don't speak our language. They are different.

In our for 30 years of developing affordable housing in Oregon, CASA understands that jurisdictions must have "clear and objective" conditions and standards in reviewing proposed housing applications. If those standards are met, the applicant should receive the necessary permits. While this great in theory, all too often opponents raise claims against permits at the local level and pursue those claims at LUBA and on appeal, even though the claims were never supportable. Our organization and the nonprofits we have worked with have lost time, money and effort defending these claims. It's time to put an end to this.

Over the last few decades, affordable housing has become a significant policy issue. The actions provided by this bill against those who bring spurious claims and appeals will make folks think twice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 8 and I urge its passage.