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March 26, 2021

To: House Committee on Revenue; others

Re: I OPPOSE [HB 2096 A]...Corporation "give-a-ways" are running amok.

In re [HB 2096A]: exerts states, "... SECTION 2. ORS 315.167 is amended to read: 315.167. (1) Prior to the completion of an agriculture workforce housing project for which credit under ORS 315.164 will be claimed, an owner or operator of agriculture workforce housing shall apply to the Housing and Community Services Department for a letter of credit approval."

"...The Housing and Community Services Department may approve an application ... (1) for all approved applications to exceed \$24 million within the biennium in which the application is approved."

"SECTION 4. (1) The amendments to ORS 458.620, 458.660, 654.086, 658.453 and 658.815 by sections 5 to 9 of this 2021 Act are intended to change the name of the "Farmworker Housing Development Account" to the "Agricultural Worker Housing Development Account."

"SECTION 6. ORS 458.620 is amended to read: 458.620. (1) There is created, separate and distinct from the General Fund of the State Treasury, the Oregon Housing Fund, which consists of six separate revolving accounts: ...d) **The [Farmworker] Agricultural Worker Housing Development Account;...**"

*[HB 2096A] is *discriminatory per se* in government's doling out preferential housing to a select class, "Agricultural Worker." Everyone should be treated equally and be able to have access to government subsidized housing.

*"The creation of the class, "Agricultural Worker" is a form of "*Systemic Racism*" to be codified into Oregon law.

*Why should taxpayers pay for the housing of, "Agricultural Workers?"

For example, the wine industry routinely boasts of their profitability and significant contribution to Oregon's economy. Fine, so the wine industry is profitable. But, the taxpayer's do not receive any profits. Nor does the wine industry pay for the total costs to society of hiring "Agricultural Workers" who may be foreign nationals in the United States of America, in violation of immigration laws.

[HB 2096A] encompasses, by class, "Agricultural Workers." It is reasonable and foreseeable the vast numbers of "Agricultural Workers" are in the U.S.A. illegally so, why should Oregon taxpayer's foot the bill to house them?

What does it say to the character of legislators who create legislation conferring housing benefits to foreign nationals as many citizens of the U.S.A. are Homeless and shivering in the wet, cold weather?

[HB 2096A] is a taxpayer subsidy to the Agricultural Industry who already wallows in cold, hard cash.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David S. Wall

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