



Farmworker Housing Development Corporation

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www.fhdc.org

“A Home Is Just the Beginning”

May 4, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee

I write to you today on behalf of The Farmworker Housing Dev. Corporation in support of SB 5534, and the inclusion of \$100 million to preserve and maintain existing affordable in Lottery bonds.

Since 1991, FHDC’s founders and community partners have sowed a long-term commitment to improving housing opportunities for immigrant farmworkers, their families, and other low-income populations in Oregon. As an equity-formed and directed organization, our mission carries forward today through the development of farmworker leadership through affordable housing development, social services, education, and economic development. We believe that a safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.

All Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Over the years, we have built thousands of affordable apartment homes in towns and cities across Oregon. Some of these affordable apartment homes were built by private owners using resources from the federal government, including rental assistance which helps households with low incomes to pay the rent every month. In many of our smaller communities, these buildings are the only affordable apartment homes available.

These apartment homes have provided stability, safety, and affordability for area residents for the last thirty-plus years. The people who live in these homes are seniors, people experiencing disabilities, and families just starting out.

Today, we have the opportunity to reinvest in these homes and ensure they will be safe and available for the next generation. Just like schools or hospitals, affordable rental homes need regular investments to ensure they stay safe for people to live in. Our investments are needed to replace the roof, make repairs to the exterior of the buildings, or to ensure the safety and habitability of these homes for generations to come. Oregon needs to steward these aging homes for future generations without raising rents.



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FHDC owns a low-income housing property in urgent need for preservation dollars. Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure the money to move with this preservation project, due to the constraints in financial resources. Our location called Colonia Amistad is a 38-unit property that provides housing and supportive services to low-income farmworkers, and their families, around 200 individuals. The property is located at 30 S. Gun Club Road, in Independence, OR. Maintaining and preserving this property is imperative for the agricultural business in the area.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$100 million to preserve and maintain affordable housing in communities across Oregon.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Guerra (MEG) (She, Her, Hers, Ella)
Executive Director

Farmworker Housing Development Corporation

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