



Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Gamba
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
February 28, 2023

RE: Support of HB 2001 with -11 Amendment – Agricultural Workforce Housing Grants

The Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers represent 440 tree fruit growers in Wasco and Hood River counties – where two-thirds of Oregon’s agricultural workforce housing is located. Our members employ nearly 9,400 farm employees during peak season and 1,900 year-round. To support this essential workforce, we have about 200 registered labor camps that house just over 5,200 occupants.

We support HB 2001 and the -11 amendment, specifically sections 67 – 70, which allocates \$5 million to Oregon Department of Agriculture to distribute grants to agricultural workforce housing providers for improvements and updates to their housing.

Our members are actively participating in OR-OSHA’s Agricultural Labor Housing (ALH) Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC), as we have been for multiple years, discussing updates to existing housing regulations. The current list of regulatory changes under consideration by the agency are broad ranging and include improvements such as electrical updates, air conditioner installations, and additional washer machines and sinks, among others. Each improvement being considered is estimated to cost ALH providers anywhere from \$200 to <\$1,000 initially per housing unit. We also anticipate increased operating costs associated with some of the proposals. Included in the below chart, supplied by OR-OSHA to RAC members, is a cost estimate on each of the proposals under consideration.

The grant funding included in the -11 amendment will provide agricultural workforce housing providers with the ability to ensure compliance with the anticipated new agricultural workforce housing rules quickly and without going drastically into debt.

We appreciate the work of the committee in drafting this legislation and believe it will result in meaningful impact to both farmers and farm employees.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Doke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Doke
Executive Director

Low Impact

Low Cost
(~\$200 or less per
single occurrence)

- post H2O test results in native language
- add bunk ladders
- space heater notification
- improve language to repair or replace broken fixtures
- no toxic chems for insect/rodent control
- *60 Day Registration
- *remove "substantially in compliance"
- *Change to "No" instead of "substantially free" for weeds on grounds
- *provide recycling

Medium Cost
(~200-1,000 per
occurrence)

- 200' to privies
- Exhaust fans in addition to venting
- No curtains for toilet doors
- refrigerator @ 39 degrees (curr: 41)
- *5 air exchanges per hour in toilets

High Cost
(~\$1,000+ per
occurrence)

- 100 gallons of H2O pp/per day
- A/C in toilets
- Current year building code always

* may not be feasible or possible

Medium Impact

- Increased H2O testing frequency, w/arsenic and nitrates
- cleanable mattress covers
- define family unit or related

- provide portable water containers when no indoor plumbing
- lockable storage
- 21 sq. ft. of storage
- air purifiers in bedrooms
- *clear brush/weeds 100' from housing

- housing 1,000' from crops
- Recreation area 500' from fields
- 2 burners for 5 pp
- no bunk beds
- yearly Oregon OSHA inspection

High Impact

- carbon monoxide detector
- post directions to housing site w/in each unit

- provide aadequate food storage area
- provide protected food storage area
- if <40 p.s.i, then install backflow prevention device
- by 2023, no cots

- require kitchens
- require adequate food prep area w/sink
- indoor kitchen in *new* housing units
- provide sinks in each living area
- enclose/insulate outdoor kitchens
- showers: 1 per 5 occupants
- private, locking changing rooms in showers
- do not count toilet sinks to req. minimum
- separate washer/dryer for work clothes only
- protect clothes lines from pesticide drift
- provide 1 sink per 2 toilets
- do not count portable toilets to req. minimum
- 1:8 toilets for each gender
- 100 sq. ft. per occupant, or 113 sq. ft. in studio living
- A/C, or cooling area for 100% occupant
- *40 p.s.i.