



March 6, 2025

To: House Committee on the Judiciary

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for HB 3194

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities for 37 years. We were founded to address the lack of housing for farmworkers and that remains a bedrock of who we are as an organization. Over our 37 year history, we have created housing serving thousands of farmworkers and their families.

I am testifying in support of HB 3194 which establishes joint and several liability for landowners and farmworker camp operators when farmworker camps fail to meet legal standards. This bill is an essential step in protecting the rights, health, and safety of Oregon farmworkers.

Long ago, the legislature declared that the availability of affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing opportunities for people of lower, middle and fixed income, including housing for farmworkers, was a matter of statewide concern (ORS 197.307

HB 3194 ensures that landowners and camp operators share responsibility for compliance with licensing, registration, and endorsement requirements.

This bill improves living conditions since camps will be subject to greater scrutiny. Landowners will no longer be able to avoid responsibility for violations occurring on their property. It also ensures that responsible farm operators are not harmed by bad players. It also provides for clear legal pathways when seeking remedies due to substandard living conditions.

Oregon has been a leader in protecting workers' rights and passing this bill will reinforce the state's commitment to safe, decent and affordable housing for all.

CASA urges you to pass HB 3194. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Hainley
Executive Director