



March 19, 2025

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for SB 703

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary 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 originally founded to address the lack of housing for farmworkers and that work is still a foundation of our current mission

The state of Oregon has long-held the importance of farmworkers to our state's agriculture industry. It is the reason that we have passed laws to protect them, compensate them and house them. We should also, wherever practical, assist them to adjust their immigration status.

CASA of Oregon strongly supports SB 703, the Pathways to Protection and Citizenship Act. Up to one-third of Oregonians without an immigration status are eligible under federal law for legal status. Unfortunately, the ability to secure the appropriate legal assistance does not exist in this state. SB 703 would help remedy that.

We owe it to those who harvest our foods, clean our hotel rooms, work in our restaurants and pay taxes like the rest of us to have an opportunity to live free from the fear of exploitation. Let's create opportunities for folks to fully participate in their communities.

We urge you to support SB 703 and help remove barriers to legal status, ensuring that more Oregonians can achieve housing stability, economic security, and the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for your leadership and comm.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and thank you for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hainley".

Peter Hainley
Executive Director