

Please support SB 999 and the -1 amendment.

This bill will ensure that Oregon's family farms and ranches are able to continue providing affordable housing options to our employees without risk of enforcement and penalties from OR-OSHA.

This housing is not provided to workers as a condition of employment but does benefit workers in many ways. Our homes are rented to permanent employees and their families, as opposed to temporary labor camps that are sometimes provided to seasonal workers and registered with OR-OSHA.

Many farms are in rural areas where housing options can be scarce. Allowing an employee to rent a house located on the farm or ranch helps reduce the burden for finding housing, avoids longer commutes and can provide a housing option that is lower cost than rental units in the community.

OR-OSHA's application of its authority is not at all in line with federal OSHA, which specifically regulates temporary labor camps provided as a condition of employment. It is not reasonable to regulate workers' private houses as a worksite. OR-OSHA's rules treat workers' private homes as worksites and would require employers to manage these homes round-the-clock, in line with OR-OSHA's January 2025 farmworker camp rules, to avoid penalties.

If the state makes providing housing legally risky, then homeowners will avoid that risk and no longer make that housing available. The unfortunate outcome will be the loss of affordable housing for workers and their families. Employers want to continue to support our employees by providing housing if available, but we cannot afford to take on any more liability right now.

The amendment to SB 999 provides clarity that OR-OSHA's authority to enforce its farmworker camp rules applies to registered farmworker camps and not to single-family homes that are rented to employees. This would bring OR-OSHA's enforcement authority closer in line with federal authority over temporary labor camps.

Please vote **YES** on SB 999 with the amendment. Family farms want to be able to continue to provide affordable, single-family homes to employees without the risk of penalties from OR-OSHA. This bill is really important to allow that to continue.

Thank you for your time.

Dana Estensen