

Submitter: Michael Moore
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB999

Please support SB 999 and the -1 amendment. Us, and ranches like ours, need to continue to provide housing options to employees without the risk of enforcement and penalties from OR-OSHA. Housing located on our ranch provides significant value to our employees, mainly because we are in a rural area where housing options are almost unavailable otherwise. Allowing employees to rent or stay at houses on the ranch helps alleviate the difficulty of finding housing, reduces long commutes, and provides cost-effective housing alternatives compared to rental units that are not in proximity.

This is especially the case since our housing is not provided as a condition of employment but instead offers numerous benefits to workers. They are used by permanent employees and their families, rather than temporary labor camps registered with OR-OSHA for seasonal workers.

OR-OSHA's current regulations treat workers' private homes as worksites, necessitating employers to manage these homes continuously in compliance with OR-OSHA's January 2025 farmworker camp rules to avoid penalties. This interpretation of authority by OR-OSHA deviates from federal OSHA, which specifically regulates temporary labor camps provided as a condition of employment. We want to continue supporting employees through these means, but that will be extremely difficult and costly if OR-OSHA enforces its farmworker camp rules on single-family employee homes.

The amendment to SB 999 clarifies that OR-OSHA's authority to enforce its farmworker camp rules applies to registered farmworker camps and not to single-family homes rented to employees, aligning with federal regulations.

Please vote yes on SB 999 with the proposed amendment. It is essential for growers to continue providing affordable, single-family homes to employees without the threat of penalties from OR-OSHA.