

Submitter: John Moore
On Behalf Of: Double M Becker Ranch
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB999

I urge you to support SB 999 and the -1 amendment, which is essential for ranches like ours to continue providing much-needed housing options for employees without the risk of enforcement and penalties from OR-OSHA.

In rural areas like ours, housing availability is extremely limited. The ability to rent or stay in homes on the ranch provides significant benefits to employees, including:

Reduced commute times and transportation challenges

Access to affordable, family-friendly housing

A stable living environment close to work

Our housing is not provided as a condition of employment. Instead, it serves as an essential option for permanent employees and their families, distinct from seasonal labor camps that are registered with OR-OSHA. However, under OR-OSHA's current interpretation, these homes are being treated as worksites, requiring employers to maintain them under the strict farmworker camp regulations taking effect in January 2025.

This deviation from federal OSHA creates an unnecessary burden on employers and discourages the continued offering of employee housing. The amendment to SB 999 clarifies that OR-OSHA's authority should apply only to registered farmworker camps—not single-family homes rented to employees—aligning with federal regulations.

Without this clarification, many growers will be forced to reconsider providing employee housing, further exacerbating the rural housing crisis. Please vote YES on SB 999 with the -1 amendment to ensure that employers can continue offering safe, affordable housing options without the risk of OR-OSHA overreach.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Moore
Member
Double M Becker Ranch