



April 8, 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am the policy advocacy director at PCUN, Oregon's farmworker union. On behalf of our members, I am providing testimony in opposition to SB 999 -2 which would modify the definition of farmworker camp and exclude single dwellings, hotels, and motels from key protections under agricultural labor housing regulations.

While I recognize the bill's intent to clarify the definition of "farmworker camp," I am concerned about its unintended consequences, particularly its potential to weaken health and safety protections for some of Oregon's most vulnerable workers. SB 999 limits the definition of farmworker housing to apply only to seasonal or temporary arrangements provided as a condition of employment. In doing so, it risks creating a regulatory blind spot where workers, especially those living in permanent or year-round housing provided by employers, could fall outside the scope of Oregon OSHA's protections.

Some critical protections under agricultural labor housing regulations include:

- Water testing for arsenic, nitrates, and coliform bacteria to ensure potable water supply. The results of the water testing must be posted in the housing for workers to see.
- Provide laundry facilities such as trays, tubs, or machines with plumbed hot and cold water as well as separate facilities for clothes that are contaminated with chemicals.
- Occupants must have access to at least one electrical outlet in sleeping rooms.
- Prohibit the use of gas burners in living areas without adequate ventilation.
- Sufficient space for each occupant to avoid overcrowding.
- Heat illness prevention protocols during extreme heat weather conditions.

SB 999 -2 excludes some farmworkers from these critical safety regulations and does not fully extend landlord and tenant protections to these workers. I urge the committee to vote NO on SB 999 -2 to ensure all farmworkers living on farms have safe housing.

Thank you.

Ira Cuello-Martinez
Policy Advocacy Director
PCUN