



Community And Shelter Assistance Corp.

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www.casaoforegon.org

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Tax Credits
House Bill 3168 & House Bill 2154
April 18, 2011

Co-Chairs Bailey and Berger, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of Community and Shelter Assistance Corp. (CASA of Oregon).

A diverse group of organizations support these two bills:

- Oregon Farm Bureau
- PCUN
- Oregon Tree Fruit Growers
- Oregon Housing Authorities
- Oregon Dairy Farmers
- Omeg Orchards
- Orchard View Farms
- Oregon Opportunity Network
- Oregon Housing Alliance

The farmworker housing tax credits are an effective tool for leveraging scarce state resources with other resources. They also lead to the construction of much needed housing in rural communities. In 2006 in the community of Independence, we were able to leverage a tax credit investment with \$6,000,000 in private, federal and other funds. In 1999 in the community of Rockwood near Gresham, we leveraged \$2,800,000 in USDA Rural Development and CDBG funds. In Ontario, Vale, Nyssa and even in Diamond, the tax credits have been used to develop community based housing as well as housing owned by farmers. Throughout the state, these credits have leveraged over \$80 million in private, federal and other funds resulting in the construction of thousands of units of housing.

We would like to adjust the sunset to 2020. By doing so, Oregon can continue to attract important private investment into housing and economic development in rural Oregon. We also request approval of HB 2154 which updates the tax credit statute (ORS 315.164) to make the credit more responsive to the changing needs of Oregon's agricultural economy. The bill updates the definition of farmworker so that it more accurately represents the evolution of Oregon's agricultural economy and recognizes the important role of farmworkers in agricultural processing. This bill would also permit the existing tax credit to support farmworker residents living in cooperatively owned manufactured dwelling parks. HB 2154 adds important clarifying language and simplifies the credit application and allocation process.

We urge your support for HB 3168 and HB 2154.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



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