



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

MEASURE: HB 3168  
EXHIBIT: 6  
Joint Committee on Tax Credits 76<sup>th</sup> Session  
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SUBMITTED BY: ▼

**Sam Adams, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Randy Leonard, Commissioner

April 18, 2011

Senator Ginny Burdick, Co-Chair  
Representative Jules Bailey, Co-Chair  
Representative Vicki Berger, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Tax Credits  
900 Court Street NE, Room 143  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3168

Dear Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Bailey, Co-Chair Berger and Members of the Committee:

The Portland City Council would like to express our support for HB 3168 to extend the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit. The Farmworker Housing Tax Credit is an important financing tool for developing safe, decent housing for Oregon's agricultural and aquacultural workers.

The City of Portland recognizes that the health and economic vitality of urban and rural communities in Oregon are intertwined. Since 2007, the City of Portland has included a Rural Partnership Section in its State Legislative Agenda. Our objective is to provide support for issues of importance to our rural partners that will enhance the health, safety, and vitality of the entire State. We believe that it is in the best interest of Portland and the State to extend the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit beyond the existing 2014 sunset date.

On the most fundamental level, every resident of Portland depends on and is nourished by food grown in Oregon's rural communities. Portlanders value sustainability, and prefer to buy Oregon hazelnuts and cranberries, Hood River apples and pears, Hermiston watermelon, and Yaquina Bay Oysters. Portland tourism benefits from the locally sourced and surpassingly fresh produce, meat and dairy products served by chefs at our renowned restaurants. We, in turn, have an obligation to the hard-working men and women who tend and harvest Oregon's agricultural and aquacultural bounty to ensure that farmworkers have access to affordable housing for their families.

The shortage of safe, decent housing for low-income families is an issue that cuts across all urban and rural geographic boundaries. The continuing uncertainty in the real estate market has chilled new development all across the state, but the largest obstacles are to the development of modest housing in rural areas, particularly for low-income families. The Farmworker Housing Tax Credit is a proven tool for financing this type of housing.

For these reasons, we ask that you support HB 3168. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Sam Adams  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Randy Leonard  
Commissioner