



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 12, 2013

Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 323

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for extending the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit, one component of the City of Portland's agenda in support of rural communities. We view SB 323 as an important policy that benefits rural Oregon while collectively enhancing growth and vitality across the state.

Senate Bill 323 will extend the Agricultural Workforce Tax Credit for six years. These incentives help farmers, non-profits, and others build housing for the workers needed to harvest Oregon's diverse crops. With farm worker shortages well-documented across the West, this incentive addresses one component of the challenges facing Oregon farmers by helping provide safe housing for seasonal workers.

We urge your support of SB 323, which is important to the prosperity of rural Oregon and the agricultural sector. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner