



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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

April 18, 2013

Senator Ginny Burdick, Co-Chair  
Representative Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Tax Credits  
900 Court St. NE, Room 143  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 323 and HB 2980

Dear Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Barnhart, and members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for extending the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit, also called the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit. This incentive is one component of the City of Portland's agenda in support of rural communities. We view this tax credit as an important policy that benefits rural Oregon while collectively enhancing growth and vitality across the state.

Both Senate Bill 323 and House Bill 2980 will extend the tax credit in order to 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 you to support renewal of the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit/Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit, 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