



# Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste *Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United*

300 Young St. / Woodburn, Oregon 97071 / (503) 982-0243 / (503) 982-1031 (FAX)  
e-mail: farmworkerunion@pcun.org website: www.pcun.org

---

## **PCUN Testimony supporting SB 323, Extension of the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit.**

**Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development  
February 12, 2013**

Submitted by PCUN President Ramon Ramirez.

PCUN, Oregon's farmworker union, strongly supports passage of **SB 323** and the continuation of Farmworker Housing Tax Credits in Oregon.

Since our founding in 1985, PCUN has advocated for and worked to increase the supply of decent and affordable housing for farmworkers. The shortage of such housing existed in 1985 and continues to exist today.

Part of our longstanding efforts to remedy this shortage has manifest in our co-founding of the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation (FHDC) in 1991 and our active support for and participation in its efforts. I serve as FHDC's board President.

The Farmworker Housing Tax Credits (FHTC) has played an indispensable role in the development and rehabilitation of FHDC's more than 200 apartment units located in Woodburn, Stayton, Salem and Independence. A total of more than 1,000 individuals currently reside in these units. Since FHDC opened its first project, *Nuevo Amanecer*, in Woodburn in 1994, many hundreds of families have moved into FHDC apartment units, stabilized their families, gained training and skills, and moved onto to market rate housing or home ownership. There are thousands more who desperately need such housing and opportunity.

By enacting **SB 323** and extending the Credits' sunset, the Oregon Legislature will be sending a strong message to investors, to growers, and to farmworkers that the economic security of Oregon agribusiness is a high priority.

As a long-time leader of PCUN, I can attest that our organization and grower associations have often disagreed on public policy, sometimes sharply. Therefore, it's significant to note that, on SB 323 and the continuation of the FHTC, **the union and the employers are in full agreement.**

We appreciate this opportunity to share our views and urge a "yes" vote on **SB 323**