



Community And Shelter Assistance Corp.

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**House Revenue Committee
February 18, 2013
Hearing on HB 2227**

**Testimony from Peter Hainley, Executive Director
Community and Shelter Assistance Corp. (CASA of Oregon)
pertaining to those portions which speak to the farm labor exemption**

In its current form, CASA of Oregon does not support the changes made by this bill to the exemptions process for farm labor camps.

Basically, there are two types of housing covered under this exemption: on-farm and community based. On-farm housing is often built to standards that are covered by OR-OSHA. Community-based housing is built to the standard of the jurisdiction where it is located.

Currently, the nonprofit applies to the county for the exemption and the assessor then requests verification from the Fire Marshall and OR-OSHA of compliance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations. This bill proposes to put that responsibility on the nonprofit owner or operator.

Verification of community-based housing is unnecessary because it is usually new construction and the local jurisdiction's codes ensure that it is built to standards which are typically far above OR-OSHA standards. In addition, the fire departments in the local jurisdiction must approve any plans prior to permits being issued.

Requiring nonprofits who operate community-based housing to seek verification of compliance from OR-OSHA and the State Fire Marshall makes it illogical and redundant.

I urge the committee to amend this bill to exempt community-based farm labor housing from obtaining verification from the Fire Marshall and OR-OSHA so as to ease the burden of the assessor and at the same time not put new, unnecessary burdens on the nonprofits that have a mission to serve the agricultural workforce.

Thank you.