



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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

March 8, 2013

Representative Carolyn Tomei, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2474 and HB 2980

Dear Chair Tomei and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for extending the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit, 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.

House Bill 2474 and House Bill 2980 will extend the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit for six and seven years, respectively. This incentive helps 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 renewing the Farmworker 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