



**HOUSING  
ALLIANCE**

[www.OregonHousingAlliance.org](http://www.OregonHousingAlliance.org)

**Members:**

1000 Friends of Oregon  
211info  
AFSCME Local 3135  
Alliance of Family & Housing Success  
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CASA of Oregon  
Cascade Management Inc.  
Central City Concern  
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Community Action Team, Inc.  
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Community Housing Fund  
Community Partners for Affordable Housing  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Fair Housing Council of Oregon  
Farmworker Housing Development Corporation  
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon  
Hacienda CDC  
Coalition of Housing Advocates  
Housing Development Center  
Human Solutions  
Impact Northwest  
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization  
Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center  
League of Women Voters of Oregon  
Lincoln County  
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NAYA Family Center  
Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO)  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
NeighborWorks Umpqua  
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing  
Northwest Housing Alternatives  
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ShelterCare  
Sisters of the Road  
Street Roots  
Washington County  
Welcome Home Coalition  
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

# HB 2610: Technical Fix to Agricultural Workforce Housing

House Human Services and Housing Committee  
February 9, 2015  
HB 2610

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Committee;

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than fifty organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and neighbors as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices from residents to local jurisdictions to non-profit housing developers and organizations working to meet basic needs.

We ask your support for House Bill 2610.

HB 2610 is a technical fix to the statute providing property tax exemptions for agricultural workforce housing. This fix will benefit the residents of housing owned by nonprofit developers, which is located in and near agricultural communities. Those property tax exemptions are essential tools that help non-profit housing developers keep rents affordable to residents. Without the property tax exemptions, the stability of residents, the future of these homes and the robust communities that support family success are put in danger.

As you have heard in testimony from others, ORS 307.480 to 307.505 creates a property tax exemption process for certain nonprofit farm labor housing. The statute currently requires certification by OR-OSHA and the Fire Marshal in order for housing to be eligible for the exemption. These requirements had the valid purpose of ensuring basic safety levels for on-farm housing, but they are not needed for newer community-based farmworker housing. OR-OSHA has no jurisdiction in these developments, and community-based housing must independently satisfy local, state, and federal building codes, which include fire marshal oversight.



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## HB 2610: Technical Fix to Agricultural Workforce Housing

HB 2610, developed by nonprofit developers in cooperation with OSHA and DOR, provides the necessary technical fixes.

On behalf of the Housing Alliance, I urge your prompt consideration and support for the benefit of residents, agricultural employers, and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Byrd".

Janet Byrd  
Executive Director, Neighborhood Partnerships  
Convener, Oregon Housing Alliance