



Oregon

John Kitzhaber MD, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

www.orosha.org

February 6, 2015

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee Human Services and Housing

The Department of Consumer and Business Services' Occupational Safety and Health Division (known as Oregon OSHA) has taken no position on HB 2610. However, the following information may be useful to the committee.

Under the Oregon Safe Employment Act (ORS chapter 654), Oregon OSHA has no jurisdiction over community-based farmworker housing, but only over housing provided as a condition of employment. None of the housing we currently regulate is provided by a non-profit organization. All housing that would be eligible for the tax exemption described by ORS 307.485 falls outside our jurisdiction.

The certification described by ORS 307.485 presumes that such housing is covered by our rules and, unfortunately, conditions the tax exemption upon the tax assessor receiving a certificate of compliance by us – a certificate we are not statutorily authorized to provide. Oregon OSHA provided an *ad hoc* solution last year by hiring a temporary employee familiar with the farmworker housing requirements, part of whose job was to conduct a survey of the housing that appeared to be eligible for the exemption. However, this process does not provide a viable long-term solution to the issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Wood, CSP
Administrator, Oregon OSHA