



**HOUSING
ALLIANCE**

www.OregonHousingAlliance.org

Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon
211info
AFSCME Local 3135
Alliance of Family & Housing Success
Bienestar
CASA of Oregon
Cascade Management Inc.
Central City Concern
Chrisman Development Inc.
City of Portland
Clackamas County
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Action Team, Inc.
Community Alliance of Tenants
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
Metro
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO)
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Open Door Counseling Center
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
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