



HOUSING ALLIANCE

March 8, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Hass, Vice Chair Boquist, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for SB 1. Senate Bill 1 creates the Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit, which incentivizes housing providers to preserve and create new safe, decent housing options for farmworkers by providing a tax credit for eligible operating expenses.

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

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Across Oregon, there are simply not enough places to call home. In both rural and urban communities, families and individuals struggle to secure housing. Agricultural workers and their families are in desperate need of safe and stable housing. Today, some farm owners and community-based organizations provide housing for their workers through the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit. This credit is fully utilized and each year builds important and much-needed housing for agricultural workers.

However, the need for safe and stable housing for agricultural workers continues to outpace supply, and this bill will create a new tax credit that is designed to both preserve existing agricultural workforce housing and ensure that basic habitability standards are met. Agricultural workers and their families will directly benefit from safe and decent housing.

Today, we continue to have agricultural workers who live in substandard housing while working hard to provide food for Oregon families. This new credit will help to encourage owners to improve conditions in existing housing by providing modest financial assistance. We believe that this may also help to encourage the development of more affordable homes for agricultural workers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide input on SB 1, and we look forward to working with you this session as you seek ways to address our housing crisis across Oregon and to create opportunity through safe and stable homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison McIntosh

Housing Alliance Members

*1000 Friends
211info
A Community Together (Lane County)
Aging in the Gorge
Benton County Health Department
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Eugene
City of Hillsboro
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
Common Ground OR-WA
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Energy Project
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Community Partners
Evolve Property Management
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest*

*JOIN
Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Mainstream Housing, Inc.
Metro
Momentum Alliance
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborImpact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Nightingale Public Advocacy Project
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Tenants United
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Transition Projects
Urban League of Portland
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services*