



Morrow County Health Department

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Sheree Smith, R.N.
Public Health Director

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sheree Smith and I am the Morrow County Public Health Director. I am writing to you regarding Senate Bill 1, Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit (AWHOTC).

Morrow County is a small rural county with a strong agricultural base and are thus very dependent on agricultural workers. We understand that the agricultural industry provides \$5.4 Billion dollars each year to Oregon's economy, making it a very important driver of the state's economy, and providing food and jobs to residents.

The AWHOTC represents a strong incentive for owners to improve housing for agricultural workers, leveraging private as well as state and federal source. The average farmworker income is \$12,000 - \$20,000 (depending on migrant seasonal worker vs year round employment) making it difficult to secure safe and stable housing. We know that it is important to our economy to ensure agricultural workers have access to safe, stable and affordable housing to ensure a stable workforce which will further support the economy throughout Oregon.

The credit represents a valuable opportunity for owners and operators to receive a tax credit for certain operations costs such as utilities, maintenance, etc., which in turn can make it easier for organizations to continue to provide services and housing.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1, Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit (AWHOTC) as I believe it is very important to our agricultural workforce, employers, and in turn for the entire economic health of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheree Smith".

Sheree Smith
Morrow County Public Health Director