

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my strong message of support for the passage of Senate Bill 1, Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit. As an architect whose firm has for the past 25 years focused on the design and construction of affordable housing throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, I understand the positive impact that safe, stable, and affordable housing has on our communities. This has been especially true in rural communities where agricultural workers have been especially challenged in finding decent housing. Carleton Hart Architecture has had the good fortune to work in communities such as Umatilla, Klamath Falls, Woodburn, Odell, Roseburg, and Molalla. In each of the rural communities we've been to, we have witnessed first hand the positive impact that providing decent and stable housing to agricultural workers has had, both economically and socially. When agricultural workers have good housing, they required fewer publicly subsidized services, they're children perform well in schools, they're families become positive and active members of the community, and they strengthen the local economy.

The AWHOTC will leverage private capital, as well as existing public sources to accomplish all the benefits of housing stability. By incenting existing farm owners to preserve and improve their existing housing stock, we maintain existing resources and ensure their sustainability into the future. It's hard to imagine a more efficient use of our precious housing dollars.

I thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this bill, and hope that you put this tax credit to work in providing much needed housing resources.

Sincerely,
Brian Carleton, AIA

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