



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

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TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SB 1
MARCH 9, 2017

Chair Hass, members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 1.

SB 1, or the Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations Tax Credit, creates an income tax credit for operating and maintaining housing for agricultural workers. This bill comes out of a hard working interim workgroup. Representatives from that workgroup are here today, and will explain this bill much better than I can.

I am here to talk about why agricultural worker housing is so important. Oregon is facing a housing crisis. That crisis is especially pervasive for Oregon's agricultural workers. These are the folks who harvest our food. They quite literally feed Oregon.

Housing is an essential need. Without safe and affordable housing, our communities suffer. Without safe and affordable farmworker housing, our communities suffer. Families don't have a safe place to sleep, children miss school, farmers lose workers, crops go unharvested.

I am very passionate about this issue. A lot of people have worked very hard on this bill. I hope you will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.