



2/1/2019

Chair Fagan, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing,

PCUN would like to ask you to support SB 608, a bill that could make the difference for families across Oregon, and their housing. PCUN has advocated for affordable housing for decades, especially in the farmworker housing sector. Our organization, and members support rent stabilization, and ending no-cause evictions, because we believe Oregon must be a place where families have stability, affordable housing, and where equity is taken into account as Oregon's economy, and population continues to grow.

The majority of the people PCUN's serves is in the Mid-Willamette Valley, our membership includes farmworkers, immigrant families, and working Latinx/o/a families in Oregon - mostly immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Woodburn today, is the first Latinx/o/a municipality, and Salem-Keizer today is up to 22 percent Latinx/o/a. Our community, has the same concerns as other communities across the state, and are seeing the effects of housing cost on their daily lives.

PCUN is also part of a network of sister organizations, that serve Oregon's Latinx/a/o community in different ways. One of those is through affordable housing units at Farmworker Housing Development Corporation. In Marion and Polk County alone, FHDC has over 500 families on its waiting lists for its apartments in Woodburn, Salem, and Independence. The Johnson-Gardner's analysis of the current farmworker population, based on the presently known demographic and enumeration studies available for Marion County and for Woodburn, in particular, indicate there are 19,277 farmworkers in Marion County. It is estimated that over 5,783 of these farmworkers reside in Woodburn and 3,918 are seasonal workers. As of 2002, the market analysis estimates that there are 8,786 farmworker households residing within the City of Salem. Affordable housing projects in Salem are generally not available to farmworkers, and many other low income families. FHDC is the only Community Development Corporation (CDC) in Marion and Polk County providing housing specifically for farmworkers, and low-income families, but as mentioned above, FHDC cannot keep up with the demand.

We support rent stabilization, and ending no-cause evictions because this would help decrease waitlists currently on affordable housing units. Drastic increases in rent will only make waitlists longer. We need to stabilize rent for our communities. Please support SB 608.

Sincerely,

Reyna Lopez,

Executive Director, PCUN

300 Young Street, Woodburn, Oregon