



Feb 19, 2019

Senate Committee on Workforce  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 202

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee

Oregon Food Bank supports SB 202 which extends the sunset on the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit and helps to build safe and affordable housing for our agricultural workers.

Oregon Food Bank believes that no one should be hungry and that hunger starves the human spirit. We provide food assistance to anyone who needs it through our network of regional food banks, pantries and emergency meal sites. In an average month, an estimated 260,000 people in Oregon and Clark County, Washington receive food from a pantry.

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to end hunger and its root causes. We know that the nexus between housing and hunger is strong. The people we serve speak of ever-increasing rents, evictions and being unable to find an affordable place to call home. Far too many of our friends and neighbors tell us that they have to make the tough choice between rent and food.

Far too often our community members who work hard to provide food for Oregon families are also forced to make this tough choice. Agricultural workers and their families are in desperate need of safe and stable housing. We continue to have agriculture workers who live in substandard housing while working to grow nutritious foods we put on our tables.

SB 202 works to address this issue. The Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax credit is a proven tool that builds affordable homes for agricultural workers throughout our communities. This bill will renew an existing and effective tool to build more safe and stable housing for our community members that work hard to feed Oregonians. We urge your yes vote on SB 202.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Anneliese Koehler  
Public Policy Advocate, Oregon Food Bank

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