

Representative Susan McLain
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RE: HB 2237 - Farmworker Housing Tax Credits

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Findley, and Vice Chair Marsh,

I am writing you in support of House Bill 2237, which would extend the Agricultural Workforce Housing Construction tax credit, and create the Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations tax credit. I believe both of these provisions will help both farm owners and farm workers, and help provide increased housing stability to our rural communities.

This issue lays at the crossroads of two very important issues to me: agriculture and housing. While many of you might know, I was raised on a small farm in Canby Oregon. This fostered a deep love for Oregon's agricultural community, which is an integral part of Oregon's cultural and economic fabric. While growing up on a farm, I always was able to have a roof over my head, but this is not the case for all of Oregon's farmworkers.

My district covers western Washington County, including Forest Grove, Cornelius, and Hillsboro. This area has a rich tradition of agriculture, and continues to be an important part of our local economy and job market. My district has also been my home for the last 40 years. This has let me see the many changes that have come to my community. Of particular focus for me: it is clear that across the state Oregonians are facing an extreme lack of affordable housing. This is why I see HB 2237 as so important. We must look in the toolbox for every possible tool to address Oregon's affordable housing crisis-- and this includes supporting our rural agriculture communities.

This bipartisan bill helps provide the right tools and support to create more farmworker housing, and provide more stability to employers and employees alike. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2237.

Thank You,

Susan McLain

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