



*Housing Oregon
Board members:*

February 28, 2019

*Sheila Stiley,
Board chair – NW
Coastal Housing*

Representative Nancy Nathanson
Chair

*Diane Linn,
Vice-chair - Proud
Ground*

House Revenue Committee
900 Court St. NE, H-276
Salem, OR 97301

*Travis Phillips,
Secretary
–Catholic Charities
of Oregon*

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Lynn Findley and Pam Marsh, and Members of the Committee:

*Trell Anderson,
Treasurer –NW
Housing
Alternatives*

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We support and strengthen our members by providing training on industry best practices, peer support networks, communications, and advocacy on local and statewide policy issues.

*Rachael Duke -
Community
Partners for
Affordable Housing*

*Ernesto Fonseca -
Hacienda CDC*

We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

HB 2237 and HB2137 are critical to reaching our goal by addressing the serious and growing shortage of safe and affordable housing for Oregon’s agricultural workers. We urge you to support HB2237 renewing the “Agricultural Workforce Housing Construction” Tax Credit and support HB2137, which has an amendment creating a complimentary “Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations” Tax Credit.

*Sean Hubert-
Central City
Concern*

*Richard Morrow
–Columbia
Cascade Housing
Corp.*

Since 1989, the construction tax credit has been an effective tool allowing taxpayers a credit of 50% of eligible costs for the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of agriculture workforce housing in Oregon.

*Lisa Rogers –
CASA of Oregon*

According to data from Oregon Housing and Community Services, between 2001 and 2012, tax credits were integral parts

of funding packages that resulted in the construction of 1,257 units – 830 community-based and 437 on-farm.

An amendment to HB2137 would also support a complimentary “Agricultural Workforce Housing Operations” Tax Credit for operating and maintaining housing for agricultural workers. This credit will help preserve and improve housing options for agricultural workers and compliment the Construction Tax Credit. It is not meant to divert funds from the current construction credit, rather adds to it.

On behalf of the board of Housing Oregon, we ask the House Revenue Committee to support HB2237 and HB2137, which will renew these critical tax credits supporting agricultural workforce housing.

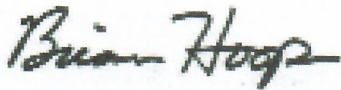
Please vote yes on HB2237 and HB2137.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and for your thoughtful attention to this critical issue. Feel free to contact me, Brian Hoop, at 503-475-6056 or Sheila Stiley at 503-270-3071.

Sincerely,



Sheila Stiley
Board Chair, Housing Oregon
Executive Director, NW Coastal Housing



Brian Hoop
Director, Housing Oregon