

**Testimony to the House Committee on Ag and Land Use on HB 2137
By Ramon Ramirez, PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union**

February 28, 2019

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I wish to express our full support for HB 2137, which would establish a credit is designed to preserve and create new housing options for agricultural workers.

PCUN was part of a stakeholder group that worked to develop the proposed tax credit. The final product was a compromise that we all agreed to. **House Bill 2137.**

We believe farmworkers will benefit from this bill by having safe, decent and affordable housing. We also believe that this bill will be an incentive for improving the living conditions of farmworkers and it send a strong message to those growers providing housing to farmworkers but not currently registered with OR OSHA, to bring their housing in line with the minimum housing standards as required by OR OSHA.

PCUN's sister organization, Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, FHDC, will also benefit from this bill. It will help FHDC build and develop housing for farmworkers, by leveraging existing and new sources of capital to create additional units.

We believe that **HB 2137** is an important step in the right direction and **strongly recommend its passage.**