



March 10, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

From: Lisa Rogers, CASA of Oregon

Re: HB2078 Relating to Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credits.

Co-Chair's Meek and Nathanson, Co-Vice Chair's Boquist, Reschke and Walters and members of the committee,

My name is Lisa Rogers. I am the deputy director of CASA of Oregon. CASA started its work 35 years ago addressing the housing needs of farmworkers in Oregon. Since then, we have been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities. We have uploaded a document that provides the efficacy and history of the AWHTC to your system. It is titled: [Oregon Agricultural Workforce \(Farmworker\) Housing Tax Credit](#)

One of our lines of business is as a nonprofit development corporation. We develop community based housing for agricultural workers and our partners, Housing Authorities and other nonprofits, own and operate the housing. To date we have built farmworker housing with over 15 housing authorities and nonprofits in 12 counties throughout Oregon. The affordable housing needs for this population remains high and thus the need for these resources also remains high.

Farmworkers have traditionally lived in overcrowded and substandard housing, and though we have created many units using the AWHTC, it is only a small portion of what is needed. By obtaining decent safe and affordable housing, these families are able to participate in their communities in ways they previously only observed.

Through our work, we have found the AWHTC to be a good tool for developing housing for farm laborers. The specific funding helps insure that housing for farmworkers is built. Without it, the overwhelming demand for general affordable housing could easily overshadow this specific population needs.

And though it might be easier to just turn this credit into a grant through the General Fund, we find more security in the tax credits. The credits have a six year sunset rather than a two year renewal that the General Fund requires. Thus it ensures we can build this much needed housing for a period of time. The community based credits are always fully subscribed and the housing that is created from these credits are much healthier and safer spaces for agricultural workers and their families to live.

We strongly encourage you to renew the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit. Thank you for your consideration and time.