



HOUSING ALLIANCE

June 03, 2021

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Boquist, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for HB 2096, which would expand the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit, and help to build safe and affordable housing for our agricultural workers and their families.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of ninety organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the foundation on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices including affordable housing developers, residents of affordable housing, local jurisdictions, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

Today, we simply don't have enough affordable homes for people who need them in communities across Oregon. People – our neighbors and members of our community – are struggling with homelessness, housing instability, rent burdens, and to make ends meet and put food on the table.

In particular, we continue to have agricultural workers who live in substandard housing while working hard to provide food for Oregon families. This program has been an effective tool to assist in the development of more affordable homes for agricultural workers, throughout our communities. COVID made conditions even worse for agricultural workers due to the fact that many continue to live in substandard or overcrowded housing to the point that social distancing and quarantining is not possible. These current conditions leave many agricultural workers in Oregon, who are predominately Latinx families, with insufficient housing and higher risk of being exposed to COVID infection.

The legislature should act accordingly to these unacceptable living standards agricultural workers are living in by passing HB 2096. As you may know, HB 2096 is not a sunset extension of the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit, it's an expansion of this credit by increasing the statutory cap to \$16.75 million per biennium, which would help capitalize the investment necessary to provide agricultural workers with the safe, stable and affordable homes that they deserve.

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges your support of HB 2096. Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Sincerely,
Loren Naldoza
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

1000 Friends of Oregon
211info
Aging in the Gorge
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
BRIDGE Housing
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
Chrisman Development
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Creswell
City of Eugene
City of Forest Grove
City of Hillsboro
City of Hood River
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
Common Ground OR-WA
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Action Team
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enhabit
Enterprise Community Partners
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Housing Oregon
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest
Innovative Housing, Inc.
Interfaith Alliance on Poverty
JOIN
Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Looking Glass Community Services
Mainstream Housing, Inc
Metro
Mid Columbia Housing Authority
Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp. (NEDCO)
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborImpact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Christian Voices
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Law Center
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
Rogue Action Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Transition Projects
Turning Point
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services