



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2096

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

June 4, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Burdick & Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Boquist, Reschke & Pham and Members of the Committee

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2096 which expands the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC).

CASA of Oregon's mission is deeply rooted in service to farmworkers and other low-income populations throughout Oregon. We seek to improve the lives of Oregonians by building affordable housing, neighborhood facilities and programs that increase families' financial well-being. We are a nonprofit community development organization that works to support thriving communities by working with local nonprofits, housing authorities and local government.

CASA has been utilizing the AWHTC since its inception in 1989. It is an important tool in leveraging other resources at the federal, state and local level and is an effective and efficient use of state tax policy.

COVID and wildfires had a disparate impact on agricultural workers. In southern Oregon, not only did many farmworkers lose their homes in mobile home parks, but multi-family projects like Anderson Vista that houses farmworkers exclusively were also destroyed. The increased investments that would be provided by HB 2096 will be important as we seek to increase the stock of housing for a historically neglected population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2096 and I urge its passage.