



Farmworker Housing Development Corporation

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"A Home Is Just the Beginning"

Thursday, March 9, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Tax Expenditure

From: Maria Elena Guerra, Executive Director, Farmworker Housing Development Corporation

RE: Support HB 2078 Extends sunset for tax credits for owner and operator of agricultural workforce housing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2078, which extends tax credits for the development of affordable housing dedicated to farmworker individuals and their families.

FHDC is the largest affordable housing developer in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley region and a bedrock for connective community services and growing economic development activities that support crucial wealth generation activities for low-income communities. For the last 30 years we have dedicated our work in providing affordable, safe and stable housing for working low-income families specially farmworker individuals. As of today, we house around 1,500 individuals. We could not have done this work without the agricultural farmworker tax credits.

Since its creation, back in 1996 these tax credits have been used by Community Based organizations (80%) and on-farm housing (20%). Community Based Organizations have built 79 affordable housing projects, using an average of \$1,000,000 Tax Credits. These dedicated housing projects provide also wrap around services, most needed for a community that was largely affected by COVID.

We encourage you to support HB2078, hence organizations like FHDC can continue providing a home for farmworkers and their families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Elena Guerra, MPA
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