



ALIANZA PODER

A NETWORK OF SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

Date: March 23, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Dexter, Vice-Chair Rep Gamba, Vice-Chair Rep Helfrich , members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Joanne Mina
Alianza Poder Network Coordinator
356 Young St, Woodburn, OR 97071

RE: Letter of Support for HB 3555

Dear members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

We, the directors of Alianza Poder, write on behalf of the Alianza Poder Network to express our wholehearted support for HB 3555 which establishes Agricultural Housing New Construction and pre-development money to continuously appropriate money from funds to the Housing and Community Services Department for grants for new construction, acquisition and pre-development of agriculture workforce housing. Additionally, it requires the department to provide grants for urban community housing supporting agricultural employees. Alianza Poder knows first hand about the need for repair and maintenance as well as the need for new construction of housing for our farmworker community and HB355 aligns with the work, goals, values and mission of our network.

Alianza Poder is a collaborative of sister organizations, which are serving, organizing, and building the leadership of our comunidades Latinas, Indigenas, y Afro-descendientes in Oregon to improve the quality of life for all, especially working families. Among the Alianza Poder (AP) organizations is Farmworker Housing Development Corporation (FHDC) which builds affordable housing for stable, more secure low-income working families and communities in Oregon. With the completion of the first of five complex buildings of Colonia Paz, FHDC has welcomed 24 new families to Colonia Paz in Lebanon. Phase II of Colonia Paz offers affordable workforce housing – from studios to three-bedroom units – to families who qualify. Each of the four buildings has 29 units, for a total of 116 – added to the 24 of phase I for a total of 130 affordable homes to the Lebanon community.

We serve families that are essential in our communities and want to continue being part of Oregon. They also feel relief in being able to afford their home as the cost of living continues to



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increase. Familias Campesinas, and Farmworker communities deserve to live in dignified homes and together we can make sure Oregon is meeting the housing needs of our essential workers and neighbors.

Alianza Poder sister organizations: Pineros y Campesino Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, Mano a Mano Family Center, Latinos Unidos Siempre, Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos, Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas, Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, Radio Poder 98.3, EVOLVE Workforce & Multifamily Housing Services and Capaces Leadership Institute urge you to support and vote YES on HB 3555 to improve the Health and Equity for all Oregonians negatively impacted by our current housing market and policies.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Guerra
Farmworker Housing Development
Corporation (FHDC)
Executive Director

Levi Herrera-Lopez
Mano a Mano Family Center (MaM)
Executive Director

Reyna Lopez
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
(PCUN)
Executive Director

Ana Gomez
Evolve Workforce & Multifamily Services
Operations Manager

Arturo Sarmiento
Radio Poder 98.3 FM KTUP
Director

Jaime Arredondo
CAPACES Leadership Institute (CLI)
Executive Director

Sandra Hernandez - Lomeli
Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS)
Executive Director

Debbie Cabrales
Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos
Executive Director

Rebeca Velasquez
Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas
Executive Director

Dunetchka Otero-Serrano
Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality
Executive Director



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If any questions arise please contact me at:
apcomms@capacesleadership.org
Joanne Mina, Alianza Poder Network
Coordinator