



Senate Committee on Labor & Business

Public Hearing on April 3, 2025

WAFLA Supports Senate Bill 999

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and committee members,

The Worker and Farmer Labor Association (WAFLA) is a nonprofit membership association comprised of nearly 800 agricultural and seasonal employers.

We provide human resource training and advice to our members and workers. We support farmers in accessing and using the federal H-2A agricultural guest worker program, and we operate licensed farmworker housing across Oregon and Washington. We believe farmers and workers need each other to exist in a symbiotic relationship if labor-intensive agriculture will survive.

We strongly support SB 999. The clarifications that the bill and the -1 amendment make to state statutes regarding agricultural workforce housing are reasonable and desperately needed.

WAFLA and our members are acutely aware of the recent changes to OR-OSHA's Ag Labor Housing (ALH) rules and the associated cost increases. OR-OSHA applied those regulations to registered farmworker camps (such as those for seasonal workers) and all other workforce housing, including single-family rental homes leased to employees. This broad scope concerns the agricultural industry, and the subsequent divergent legal analysis by different public entities only adds to the confusion, frustration, and likely loss of farmworker housing.

SB 999 is essential for remedying this situation. OR-OSHA's ALH rules are more appropriate for dormitory or barrack-style seasonal farmworker housing, not single-family houses that are, more than likely, occupied by year-round farmworkers and their families. SB 999 clarifies that these employee-occupied single-family homes are not to be regulated by OR-OSHA as farm labor camps and fall under OSHA rules that do not fit this type of housing.

Treating employees' family homes as worksites and applying OR-OSHA's ALH rules to these single-family worker houses increases liability for farmers to the point that offering this type of housing for free or at a reduced rate to employees as an employment benefit is no longer a viable option.

Without the statutory clarifications of SB 999, the availability of affordable, single-family farmworker housing is threatened.

I urge you to support SB 999.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dilley".

Scott Dilley
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