



Farmworker Housing Development Corporation

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"A Home Is Just the Beginning"

January 26, 2021

Representative Julie Fahey
Chair, House Committee on Housing
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Fahey and members of the committee:

The Farmworker Housing Development Corporation and the Evolve Workforce & Housing Services focus on farmworkers, immigrant communities, and Latinx working families. Our collective impact with other sister organizations reaches thousands of people each year, which has made disparities in Oregon for COVID-19 deeply apparent to our frontline staff, at work, and in their personal lives.

One of the most affected communities due to lack of access to quality housing includes Oregon's essential food supply chain workers, Farmworkers. According to an Oregon State University Study, there are 178,758 agricultural workers and family members. Since 1986 thought the Agricultural Workforce Tax Credit, OHCS has supported our agricultural community for years. Unfortunately the number of agricultural farmworker tax credit is not matching the actual demand.

The Farmworker Housing Dev. Corporation and its affiliate Evolve Workforce and Family Services ask the House Committee on Housing to support allocation of \$24 million for the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit as proposed in HB 2096.

Thank you for your consideration, and your attention to this issue. Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Guerra (Meg) | Executive Director
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