

Support HB 2096

Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit Increase & Programmatic Updates

BACKGROUND: The Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC), provides support for the construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of housing for agricultural workers and their immediate families. The tax credit, used by hundreds of agricultural workforce employers in Oregon, allows them to continue increasing and improving their housing options for employees.

HOW THE AWHTC PROGRAM WORKS:

- Tax credit may be taken for up to 50% of the eligible costs for housing development
- Eligible housing must comply with all occupational safety and health laws, rules, regulations, and standards
- Keeps employers utilizing the credit accountable by requiring annual certification forms to be submitted



HB 2096 EXPANDS THE PROGRAM AND MAKES CRITICAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- Allows the Housing and Community Service Department to streamline their work by allocating the tax credits each biennium instead of yearly
- Allows the Housing and Community Service Department the ability to monetize the credits set aside for on-farm developments and provide cash grants instead of only credits
- **Increases the tax credit amount by \$9.5M per biennium.** The increase will allow agricultural employers to build additional housing or make upgrades to existing structures

Why expand the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit?

- ✓ Farmworkers benefit by having safe and affordable housing
- ✓ Employers benefit by having a stably housed workforce
- ✓ The credit incentivizes improved living conditions of farmworkers
- ✓ Registration is required to access and maintain the credit – ensuring housing standards are met