



## Support SB 132

### Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit Extension

The Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers represent 440 tree fruit growers in Wasco and Hood River counties, where two-thirds of Oregon's farm labor housing is located. Our members employ nearly 9,400 workers during peak season and 1,900 year-round. To support this essential workforce our members have nearly 200 registered labor camps that house just over 5,200 occupants.

**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, assists them in their ability to add additional and improve existing 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

#### **WHY EXPAND THE AWHTC?**

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