



## Farmworker Housing Development Corporation

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***"A Home Is Just the Beginning"***

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Sunday, February 26, 2023

To The Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Dear Members,

My name is Maria Elena Guerra, I am the Executive Director of the Farmworker Housing Dev. Corporation, an owner and operator of affordable housing in the Willamette Valley. FHDC has been serving Oregon rural areas for more than 30 years. We at FHDC believe that a home is the foundation for success. Every Oregonian should have access to opportunity, which begins with a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. When we invest in affordable housing and programs that reduce barriers to housing, we create an Oregon with a better future for all.

Housing costs are the largest expense for most Oregonians and as rents rise faster than wages, more people are having to make tough decisions between doctor's appointments, medication, car maintenance and housing. Housing vouchers and affordable housing is limited, and Oregonians can wait for years before getting assistance. Something else is needed to catch people who fall through the cracks.

As developers, owners and managers of affordable housing in rural Oregon, we believe that The People's Housing Assistance Fund will create a pathway for guaranteed income in Oregon so that Oregonians have the resources they need to thrive.

I am writing to ask you to support SB603 because it provides resources to low-income individuals who need help to stay housed. We believe that housing and having a safe place to call home gives us the opportunity to use our voice to help others. We want to be one of the many, not one of the lucky few who have a safe, stable place to call home. Support the passage of SB603 to help Oregonians keep a roof over their heads.

Thank you for your consideration

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