



*from the*

## **OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANNA SCHARF**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **SCHARF ASKS AG RAYFIELD TO MAKE OR-OSHA FOLLOW THE LAW**

**SALEM, OR** – On Wednesday, **Rep. Anna Scharf (R-Amity)** sent a [letter](#) to Attorney General Dan Rayfield requesting a legal opinion on OR-OSHA’s overreaching rules on agricultural labor housing. [Last week](#), Rep. Scharf published a [legal opinion](#) from the Oregon Legislative Counsel Committee (LC) that determined the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) rules on agricultural labor housing broke the law by reaching beyond their legal authority. The LC opinion found that the agency exceeded its statutory authority in expanding application of the ag-labor housing rules to single family homes.

“One of the core functions of the Department of Justice is to ensure that state agencies aren’t reaching beyond their legal authority and that they follow the law,” said Rep. Scharf. “I fully trust and expect Attorney General Rayfield to provide a legal opinion that affirms Legislative Counsel’s legal opinion.”

The published [legal opinion](#) stated in part that OR-OSHA “impermissibly exceeds the authority granted to it by statute.”

Scharf’s request follows a [public hearing](#) where the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) stated they intended on enforcing OR-OSHA’s illegal rules and would seek a new opinion from the Attorney General’s Office allowing them to proceed with their overreach.

“After a painful 6-year process, OR-OSHA adopted some of the most extreme rules for ag-labor housing in the country, costing farm families between \$400K to \$1.5M, with an average cost of just over \$1M per operation, according to public records,” said Scharf last week about OR-OSHA’s rules. “Government overreach is harming farmers, imposing obstacles on Oregon’s agricultural communities, and driving up costs for families,” Rep. Scharf concluded.

Rep. Scharf has also introduced [House Bill 2692](#) which would ensure consistency, transparency and effectiveness in how state agencies approach the rulemaking process and align judicial review standards with federal standards.

“HB 2692 will make government more transparent; help ensure the laws we pass accurately translate into the rules implemented by state agencies, and prevent agency overreach,” said Rep. Anna Scharf about the bill.

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