

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

Proclamation Honoring March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 as National Farm Worker Awareness Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. As an primarily urban county with few farms, Multnomah County and its residents depend on farm workers throughout the State and the Nation for the quality and quantity of our food;
- b. Oregon's agribusiness employs up to 175,000 year-round, seasonal, and migrant farm workers who are key partners to ensure the safety, security, and sustainability of our agriculture;
- c. Oregon's farm workers' labor contributes to the generation of more than three billion dollars annually for the State's economy;
- d. All residents of Multnomah County, without exception, benefit from the labor of farm workers. Worldwide, 85 percent of fruits and vegetables are handpicked by farm workers;
- e. Farm workers continue to be among the lowest-paid workers in our State. Their jobs are the third most dangerous in the United States. And they continue to suffer racial, cultural, and ethnic discrimination;
- f. Multnomah County has a Latino population of 11 percent. Many Latinos have a farm worker family history or connection. Despite progress made by Latinos to reach greater equality, they continue to struggle in key areas such as income levels, high school graduation rates, and overrepresentation in the justice system;
- g. March 31<sup>st</sup> is the birthday of César Estrada Chávez, whose dedication to non-violent organizing for just wages, safe labor conditions, and dignity for the women, men, and children who toil in the fields moved to lead a nation-wide peaceful struggle for farm worker justice that continues to this day;

- h. César E. Chávez's spirit and dedication provides us with a clear example of a stellar social justice champion. Let his life and work inspire us as a County to continue to tirelessly work to effectively eliminate the disparities that exist for farm workers, Latinos, and other communities;

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 as Farm Workers Awareness Week, and honors March 31<sup>st</sup>, the birthday of César E. Chávez, in Multnomah County, Oregon and urges all citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

**ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 2013.**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Jeff Cogen, County Chair

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Deborah Kafoury,  
Commissioner District 1

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Loretta Smith,  
Commissioner District 2

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Judy Shiprack,  
Commissioner District 3

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Diane McKeel,  
Commissioner District 4

Submitted by: Daryl Dixon, CDEO, Diversity & Equity