

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclamation Honoring March 24th through March 31st, 2014 as National Farm Worker Awareness Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. As a 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 agribusinesses employ 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 31st is the birthday of César Estrada Chávez, whose dedication to non-violent organizing for just wages, safe labor conditions, and dignity and respect for the women, men, and children who toil in the fields moved him to lead a nation-wide peaceful struggle for farm worker justice that continues to this day.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

March 24th through March 31st, 2014 as Farm Workers Awareness Week, and honors March 31st, the birthday of César E. Chávez, in Multnomah County, Oregon and urges all citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

ADOPTED this 27th day of March, 2014

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

Marissa Madrigal, Acting Chair

**Deborah Kafoury
Commissioner District 1**

**Loretta Smith
Commissioner District 2**

**Judy Shiprack
Commissioner District 3**

**Diane McKeel
Commissioner District 4**

SUBMITTED BY:
Kalissa Canyon-Scopes, Interim Director, ODE