

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**PROCLAMATION NO.**

PROCLAMATION Honoring March 25<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 as National Farm Worker Awareness Week in Multnomah County, Oregon to Raise Awareness About Farm Worker Conditions and to Honor Their Important Contributions and to Honor the Spirit and Work of César Chávez.

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

- a. As an urban county with few farms, Multnomah County, and its residents, depend on farm workers throughout the State and 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 for the safety, security, and sustainability of our agriculture;
- c. Oregon's farm workers' labor contributes more than three billion dollars annually to the state's economy;
- d. All residents of Multnomah County, without exception, benefit from the labor of farm worker. Farm workers feed the world, 85% of fruits and vegetables are handpicked
- e. Farm workers continue to be among the lowest paid workers in our state; their jobs are among the third most dangerous in the US; and they continue to suffer racial, cultural and ethnic discrimination
- f. March 31st is the birthday of César 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 him to lead a nationwide peaceful struggle for farm worker justice that continues today;
- g. Multnomah County boasts a Latino population of 11%. Many have a farm worker family history or connection. This tie to history, current and past injustices is interwoven in our complex and disparate status in Multnomah County. today
- h. Given the recent report "The Latino Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile", the County is in a key position to be a champion and leader for this community and effecting positive change and social justice.

- i. Today we honor the inspiration and life of Cesar Chavez. He provides us an example of a stellar social justice champion. Let his example and work inspire us as a County to justly and effectively eliminate the disparities that exist.

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

March 25-31st, 2012 as Farm Workers Awareness Week, and honors March 31st, the birthday of César Chávez, in Multnomah County, Oregon and urges all citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

ADOPTED this 5th of April, 2012.

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:  
Chair Jeff Cogen's Office