

From: [Laura Lester](#)  
To: [Kelly Hart](#)  
Subject: Planning Case No. AR-20-5  
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Dear Members of the Lebanon City Council:

I write for a second time in support of Planning Case No. AR-20-5 and the Applicant Farmworkers Housing Development Corporation to build living quarters for agricultural workers and their families.

I was so heartened by your affirmative decision earlier this year, and would ask that you not give in to negative, fearful and xenophobic pressures, but stand firm in the belief in the dignity of every individual and their right to work, be safe and housed, and provide the best life they can for their family.

Not only have the past six months of living with Covid-19 stripped bare the inequalities built into our American way of life, but the recent fires have disproportionately affected people who lived in the most modest kind of housing, without the insurance that people of more means might have.

During the Covid-19 shut-down, farm workers were declared "essential workers", which means that without their labor, society would not get fed. Without food, we truly would face anarchy.

Now too many of these same farm workers are reduced to living in what will probably be FEMA-provided shelters, struggling to rebuild the modest homes they once had.

As farm workers are essential to our societal infrastructure, let us, as a society, provide them with the basics of living a life in which we afford them proper dignity, respect, and basic conditions for success--a roof over one's head, safe and potable running water, adequate space for one's family, a place for children to play and thrive, and living arrangements which are culturally familiar and appropriate.

**THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED BY FARMWORKERS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WOULD DO ALL THIS!**

***PLEASE DO NOT GIVE IN TO XENOPHOBIC, RACIST GROUPS THAT WOULD SOW FEAR AND DISCORD!***

Let us, instead, accord each other the dignity and humanity which should be everyone's birthright.

Lebanon's city motto is "The City That Friendliness Built".

It is a good motto, and one I hope your actions will affirm by once again approving

Planning Case No. AR-20-5.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,

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