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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Farm Worker Housing Available in Yakima *wafla strikes deal for members*

Olympia, May 9, 2018: Wafla announces an agreement with First Street Investments, LLC to secure beds at a reduced rate for wafla members and assist in the management of an 800-bed facility for farm worker housing located at the FairBridge Inn and Suites, 1507 N. First Street in Yakima.

Wafla, an association of seasonal employers and one of the largest H-2A providers in the nation, has secured reduced pricing for its members at the facility, and are first in line to rent beds. The facility is slated to open June 1. Rental rates range from \$12 to \$14 per night, the lower rate is available to H-2A member program participants of wafla. Growers interested in securing beds should contact David Guzman of wafla at dguzman@wafla.org and (509) 440-2826.

"It is a first-class facility for farm workers and we are happy to play a role in the development," said Dan Fazio, director of wafla. The hotel will serve breakfast and dinner and make sack lunches for the workers.

"Management is going to place everything the workers need right at the site, and of course being in the city makes it more convenient for workers to access other services," said Fazio. In addition to a full restaurant facility, the hotel has two pools, sundries store, recreational area, and a self-serve laundry facility. Management is negotiating with a financial services firm to provide check cashing and other banking services on the premises. Most rooms have microwaves, televisions, and small refrigerators. Workers will not be permitted to cook in the rooms.

First Street Investments is an LLC that is managed by Rob Valicoff, president of Valicoff Fruit. "We were happy to work with wafla and our investor group to put this together," said Valicoff. "Farmers need the workers, and workers need a place to live."

Lack of worker housing is a huge problem in Washington, and wafla is excited for this opportunity to contribute in solving this issue.

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Wafla is a non-profit agriculture association that provides labor and employment advice for its more than 800 members in the pacific northwest.

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