



February 7, 2022

Chair Marsh, and Vice-Chairs Hudson and Smith, and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4077. My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. At PCUN, we work to improve the working conditions and lives of farmworkers and Latinx families through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

PCUN supports HB 4077 because we recognize the importance of having region-specific data to understand the varying impacts that climate change is having across the state. In order to achieve a just transition in Oregon, we need the data to know what communities need and where to dedicate resources. This data will inform the community and state agencies on how to address climate-related issues in their region.

Our members are particularly interested in identifying solutions to the climate hazards they have been facing in the workplace. In the past few years, farmworkers have been facing an increase in extreme weather conditions such as wildfires, wildfire smoke, and heatwaves. The other environmental concern that farmworkers face is exposure to toxic pesticides. These harmful chemicals are not only applied to the crops but oftentimes contaminate the soil, air, and water. These working conditions place an adverse risk to workers' health and wellbeing. Allocating resources to data mapping will strengthen our understanding of the impacts that these hazards have on our communities.

Data is needed for effective advocacy and policy development. To have a clear understanding of the environmental burdens that Oregonians face, we need readily accessible information. This bill not only aims to improve data but it places a focus on the most vulnerable populations in the state. The state's creation of the Environmental Justice Task Force is a step in the right direction and the bill also ensures that the task force has additional resources to succeed.

On behalf of the PCUN, we urge you to support HB 4077 to enhance the state's capacity and infrastructure to advance environmental justice.

Thank you,

Ira Cuello-Martinez  
Policy Manager  
PCUN