

Submitter: John Snider
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3194
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3194 – Holding Unregistered Farmworker
Camps Accountable

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and Members of the House Committee
on Judiciary,

My name is John Snider, and I am a union carpenter in Oregon. I've spent years
working in the trades, and I know firsthand how important it is for workers to have
safe and fair conditions—not just on the job site but also in the places we live. That's
why I'm writing in strong support of HB 3194, a bill that will help protect workers from
unsafe and illegal housing conditions.

What HB 3194 Will Do

This bill makes three key changes that will hold bad actors accountable:

Ensures Landowner Accountability – Right now, landowners can lease property to
unregistered labor camp operators without any responsibility for what happens there.
HB 3194 makes sure landowners take reasonable steps to ensure their tenants are
legally registered and following state rules. This will help prevent extreme worker
exploitation, particularly in illegal cannabis operations, where many workers have
been forced into inhumane living conditions.

Removes Barriers to Justice – Under current law, workers have to prove "ongoing
harm" to take legal action. That's nearly impossible for seasonal workers who are
only in Oregon for part of the year. HB 3194 removes this roadblock while still
allowing legal tools to be used when needed.

Aligns Penalties with Existing Labor Laws – Right now, the maximum fine for violating
the law is just \$500—pocket change for those who exploit workers. HB 3194 raises
the penalty to \$2,000 per violation, making it consistent with penalties already
enforced by BOLI.

Why HB 3194 is Needed

As a carpenter, I've worked on a lot of job sites, and I know how hard people in this
industry work to provide for their families. No worker—whether they're in
construction, farming, or any other trade—should be forced to live in conditions like:

Makeshift shelters made of tarps and plywood

No running water or bathrooms
Overcrowded and unsafe housing

Since 2020, most citations for unregistered labor camps have been tied to cannabis farms, but this isn't just about one industry—this is about basic human dignity for all workers. Right now, landowners who allow these conditions get off the hook if the camp operators disappear after the season ends. That needs to change.

Why This Matters

No worker should have to live in inhumane conditions because someone in power is cutting corners. As carpenters, we know the value of a hard day's work, and we know that every worker deserves a safe place to sleep at night. HB 3194 is a fair and reasonable fix—it ensures that responsible landowners can continue to do business while holding bad actors accountable.

On behalf of myself and my fellow tradespeople, I urge you to support HB 3194.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Snider
Rickreall, OR