



To: Chair Kropf, House Committee on Judiciary
From: Madison Walters, UFCW Local 555
Date: 2/27/2025

SUPPORT FOR HB 3194

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 3194, a bill that will help protect workers from unsafe and illegal housing conditions. My name is Madison Walters. I am a political liaison and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, which represents tens of thousands of workers in grocery, retail, manufacturing, healthcare, and the legal cannabis industry. We take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

HB 3194 seeks to address the chronic workers' rights abuses in illegal cannabis grows by identifying and closing a loophole in labor housing law. Currently, negligent landowners are able to avoid responsibility for extreme worker exploitation on their land, further enabling the illegal cannabis operations that harm our state. Under HB 3194, Landowners who lease property to unregistered housing providers must take reasonable steps to ensure their tenants are legally registered and compliant with state rules around labor housing registration. This bill does not penalize landowners who make reasonable efforts to ensure their land is used legally. Rather, it removes the ability of landowners to simply evade responsibility by being intentionally ignorant while their resources are used to facilitate exploitation.



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By ensuring accountability from landowners, removing barriers to justice for workers, and aligning penalties with existing labor law, Oregon can effectively intervene on behalf of victimized workers and their families.

UFCW 555 represents workers in Oregon's legal cannabis industry, who have the benefit of legal requirements that employers must follow to ensure worker safety. Even so, this industry can be very dangerous—cannabis workers in grow operations may have to operate heavy machinery, or work with volatile chemicals.

For workers in these illegal operations, where there is no accountability, workers are extremely vulnerable and face tremendous abuse. In these camps, workers are overcrowded into makeshift shelters made of plywood and tarps, with no bathrooms or running water. Conditions are egregiously dangerous. It is imperative that we identify accountability levers we can pull to disband these illegal operations in Oregon—levers that are created and strengthened by HB 3194.

HB 3194 is a common sense solution—landowners who follow the law and lease their land to a registered, licensed, and endorsed camp operator will not be impacted. With HB 3194, those who allow illegal and unsafe conditions can and should be held accountable.

We strongly urge your support.

Thank you,

Madison Walters
Political Liaison
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