



February 27, 2025

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

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am the Policy Advocacy Director at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. PCUN aims to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

On behalf of our members, I am testifying in support of HB 3194 which would establish joint and several liability for landowners and farmworker camp operators when farmworker camps fail to meet legal standards. This bill is an essential step in protecting the rights, health, and safety of Oregon farmworkers.

Farmworkers play a critical role in our state's economy yet many continue to live in substandard conditions due to lack of oversight and accountability. HB 3194 addresses this issue by ensuring that landowners, in addition to camp operators, share responsibility for compliance with licensing, registration, and endorsement requirements. By doing so, the bill helps prevent landowners from turning a blind eye to unsafe living conditions and encourages them to work only with responsible, law-abiding camp operators.

This bill has several key benefits such as:

- Improved living conditions: Farmworker camps will be subject to greater scrutiny, leading to better housing, sanitation, and overall living conditions for workers.
- Greater accountability: Landowners will no longer be able to avoid responsibility for violations occurring on their property, ensuring that all parties involved in farmworker housing comply with the law.
- Fairness in the industry: Ensures that responsible farm operators are not undercut by those who cut corners on worker housing and safety.
- Stronger protections: Provides workers with clearer legal pathways to seek remedies when they are subjected to unfair substandard living conditions.

Oregon has been a leader in protecting workers' rights and passing this bill would reinforce our commitment to fair and humane treatment for all. On behalf of PCUN, I urge the committee to support HB 3194 and help create a safer, more just environment for the hardworking individuals who sustain our agricultural sector.

Ira Cuello-Martinez  
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PCUN