



Service Employees  
International Union  
Local 503

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Date: February 27, 2025

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

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for HB 3194

My name is Mike Powers with SEIU Local 503. We represent over 72,000 workers across Oregon in various sectors including forest management, agriculture support and export, elder and youth care, road maintenance and safety, and much more. I am writing to express our Union's strong support for HB 3194, which aims to protect vulnerable and hard-working individuals from unsafe living and working conditions.

HB 3194 addresses the issue of illegal cannabis operations in Oregon that subject workers to substandard housing conditions, such as makeshift shelters without proper bathroom facilities and running water. The current Camp Operator Registration Act (CORA) has proven ineffective in regulating the cannabis industry, as growers often operate unregistered housing and disappear after harvest or before law enforcement interventions.

The bill aims to hold negligent landowners accountable for leasing land to unregistered housing providers, unless they can prove the lease is with a registered, licensed, and endorsed camp operator. It also removes the requirement for workers to bring an injunction in legal cases, which has been a significant barrier, especially for seasonal workers.

Furthermore, HB 3194 modernizes the penalty structure, aligning it with the Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) current penalty power of \$2,000 per violation, a substantial increase from the outdated total penalty of \$500 under CORA

We urge your "aye" vote for HB 3194.

Thank you for your consideration.