

Submitter: Jonathan Ibanez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

FROM: JR Ibanez

SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is JR Ibanez, and I live in Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farmworkers in Oregon endure harsh weather extremes to bring food to our tables, often without the financial assistance needed to keep them safe during these tough times. By backing HB 3193, we can help protect these hardworking individuals when disasters like heatwaves, wildfires, and storms put their livelihoods at risk.

The bill expands the definition of a “qualifying disaster” beyond extreme heat and smoke to include snowstorms, ice storms, heavy rain, flooding, pandemics, and other dangerous conditions that put farmworkers’ health and livelihoods at risk.

I support HB 3193 because no one should have to choose between their safety and their ability to provide for their family. As a Filipino-American, I understand the sacrifices many immigrant families make to build a better life, and I know that farmworkers—many of whom are immigrants—face unimaginable hardships while working to feed our communities.

As students and community members, we value fairness, dignity, and the rights of all workers who contribute to our society. Many of us understand the struggles of living paycheck to paycheck, making it essential that we come together to support farmworkers who keep our communities fed.

Farmworkers are the backbone of Oregon’s agriculture, yet they continue to be overlooked when it comes to worker protections. As climate change intensifies, extreme weather will only worsen, and farmworkers will be the ones most affected. By passing HB 3193, we can ensure they receive the financial relief they need during times of crisis and take a step toward treating them with the dignity they deserve.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3193 to protect and support the farmworkers who sustain Oregon.

Sincerely,  
JR Ibanez