

FROM: Sammi Teo, Public Policy Advocate, Oregon Food Bank  
TO: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
RE: YES on HB 3193, Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund  
DATE: March 10, 2025



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

Oregon Food Bank’s mission is “to eliminate hunger and its root causes... *because no one should be hungry.*” We pursue this goal in two key ways: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious food today, and we advocate to change policies that drive hunger and poverty.

**No farmworker should have to choose between their livelihood and being safe on the job.**

It is impossible to understate how essential farmworkers are in every facet of our state. They plant, grow, and harvest the food that we all nourish ourselves with. They are the boots on the ground that carry the entire agricultural industry– helping to plan for the future so that we can all continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor for generations to come.

With extreme heat, drought, and wildfires becoming more frequent and extreme each year, we need to take action now to protect our farmworkers, who are often the first to experience the impacts of extreme weather conditions. Research has shown that [agricultural workers are 35 times more likely to die from heat-related stress](#) than workers in other industries.

In addition to facing higher risks of death and harm from extreme weather conditions, the [average farmworker in Oregon makes around \\$34,500 annually](#). With farmworkers living paycheck to paycheck to feed and support their families, the decision to forgo a shift and the pay that comes with it may have serious consequences for themselves and the people they support. No one should have to choose between their livelihood and being safe while working.

That is why Oregon Food Bank supports HB 3193, which will provide temporary financial relief to farmworkers in Oregon who lose work or wages due to extreme weather conditions.

By providing an opportunity to mitigate the economic impact of lost work due to extreme weather, **HB 3193 not only helps keep farmworkers safe, but also improves the likelihood that agricultural labor, an essential and critical industry in Oregon, can provide stable employment– a critical factor in reducing rates of poverty and food insecurity.**

That is why we urge you to vote YES on HB 3193. Thank you for your time.

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