

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

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
Tammy Rodgers
Yes, on HB 3193

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

My name is Tammy

I am writing to you today as an Oregonian in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

My family and I have worked in fields for many years in all types of extreme weather conditions as most farmworkers often experience, and the impact it has on our lives and the lives of our families. My family and farmworkers increasingly have to deal with extreme heat, which many pass out or start throwing up from heat stroke. They are 35 times more likely to die from heat-related stress than workers in other industries. Also, many get a sickening feeling from being exposed to wildfire smoke that is very unhealthy to be breathing. Some have asthma problems. I support HB 3193 because it will provide temporary financial relief to farmworkers in Oregon who lose work or wages due to extreme weather conditions. HB 3193 will define a “qualifying disaster” in regard to extreme weather as more than just extreme heat and smoke. This includes snowstorms, ice storms, heavy raining, flooding, pandemics, etc.

I have witnessed first-hand the impact the extreme weather conditions have had, the hardship it brings with minimal protection. Some of my family members have ended up in the emergency. They labor long hours in extremely hot or cold temperatures, often exposed to hazardous chemicals, and receive low pay that barely sustains their families. They deserve to get fair wages, safer working conditions, access to healthcare and the same protections as other workers. It is essential to remember farmworkers cannot get away from these extreme weather conditions by going indoors to the safety of air-conditioned offices. Recognizing what they do for us and our tables is a matter of justice. Farmworkers deeply value hard work and perseverance.

I recognize the immense sacrifices farmworkers make to provide for their families and to sustain our communities. There are over 72,000 Oregon farmworkers who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6 billion to our state's economy. Farmworkers lack basic protections and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually. We continue to call our farmworkers essential, and it is time to provide further support and protections.

Farmworkers should not be forced to choose between working in dangerous conditions or missing out on a paycheck.

Their dignity and protection is essential. This bill is a necessary step forward to ensuring fair wages, safer working environments, and the respect that they rightfully deserve. By supporting farmworkers, we're standing up for the people who feed our communities and acknowledge their invaluable work and their contributions to our daily lives.

I am requesting for you to pass HB 3193. I am with the Sacred Organizing Coalition who work hard and make a huge commitment to organize hundreds of community-based teams and help thousands of everyday Oregonians in local groups. The Sacred Organizing Coalition helps us move to where we all belong.