

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
RE: Support of HB 3193 Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund
DATE: 03/09/25

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

My name is Maya Ryley, and I live in Eugene when I'm not in Salem attending Willamette University where I'm working towards a degree in Sociology and English. I would bet just like me, you haven't put significant thought into where our food comes from. Where our fruits, vegetables, and other produce that we create a meal with actually come from. The reality is Farmworkers are the ones that provide backbreaking labor to get food on our tables and we need to acknowledge that they're more than their labor. They are humans that deserve more respect and protection, which is why I support **HB 3193**.

Within Oregon there are more than 72,000 Farmworkers who live paycheck to paycheck to support their families. Who are 35 times more likely to suffer from heat-related deaths compared to other industries. Who are forced to work in brutal heat, cold, and unhealthy smoke under threat of losing a necessary paycheck. Who are essential to our lives.

HB 3193 makes sure these members of our community are respected and protected. The Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund will create a permanent fund for Farmworkers that will provide financial relief for loss of work and wages because of extreme heat, smoke, snow storms, heavy rain, flooding, pandemics, etc. These situations are only going to get worse as climate change progresses. For example, we're experiencing higher rates of deadly heatwaves, unprecedented wildfires, and unhealthy air quality. Without **HB 3193**, Farmworkers will be forced into these crises and putting their lives at risk for a necessary paycheck for their families.

Instead of staying silent and ignorant on where the food on your table is from, I implore you to support **HB 3193**. To support the protection of these fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors, and Oregonians from deadly working conditions in the name of survival.

Thank you for your time and support,

-Maya Ryley