

Submitter: David Medford
On Behalf Of: St. Luke Lutheran Climate Justice Ministry
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

Dear Chair Grayber , Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-chair Munoz, and members of the Committee ,

My name is David Medford . I live at 7020 SW 82nd Ave. , Tigard , OR 97223-7316 and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193 , the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund. Farmworkers 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 . Extreme heat and drought also are fueling more intense wildfire seasons, and outdoor workers are increasingly subject to harmful exposures to wildfire smoke and unhealthy air quality.

HB 3193 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 regards to extremeweather as more than just heat and smoke. This includes ice storms, heavy raining, flooding, pandemics, etc. Conditions in which our farmworkers have continued working in spite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

On a personal note , I carried the US Mail outdoors in all sorts of extreme weather year-round , but hardly the extremes happening today . I've done hard physical labor all my adult years and naturally it has deteriorated my shoulders, hands , back, and knees. I have a decent retirement and health care that allows me some degree of relief . What will farmworkers have when they wear their bodies out doing our worst jobs for us , until they can't . I know they won't be covered like I am . HB 3193 gives them a small break . That is not too much to ask . It's embarrassingly little and you know it if you have ever stooped over a row of anything all day . Thank you.