



TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
FROM: Your name/ Organization
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Eric Richardson I live in Lane County and/or I am writing on behalf of Beyond Toxics. We are a community-driven environmental justice organization that envisions a future where we all have equitable access to healthy communities and a thriving environment.

I write today in support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund. *Oregon has over 70,000 farmworkers who essentially put food on our tables and contribute over \$6 billion to our state's economy. As we all understand; farmworkers are essential, therefore it is time to strengthen the support and protections they deserve.* Research has shown that agricultural workers are 35 times more likely to die from heat-related stress than workers in other industries. As we know, extreme heat and drought are fueling more intense wildfire seasons, and outdoor workers are increasingly having to deal with 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 extreme weather as more than just extreme heat and smoke. This includes snow storms, ice storms, heavy raining, flooding, pandemics, etc. Conditions in which our farmworkers have continued working in despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

We at Beyond Toxics urge a YES vote on HB 3193!



Sincerely,
Eric Richardson
ECJ community Organizer
Beyond Toxics