

Submitter: Haehee Joung-Phillips
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
FROM: Haehee Joung-Phillips
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Haehee, I live in Beaverton 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 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.

Growing up in a community with access to local farms and healthy fresh produce, I was able to benefit from having direct access to nutritious food. Seeing first hand how that impacted my life and now being fortunate enough to be able to provide that for my growing child and family is a privilege.

I believe that local farms are essential to the health of our communities and protecting those who provide our communities with healthy nutritious food should be prioritized and something we should all support. We're all interconnected and without those who produce our food, where would we be as a community? I believe that in order to build a more resilient community, we have to protect those who feed us and it all starts with our growers and farm workers.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3193, to provide protections and support for our

farmworkers in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Haehee