



Monday, March 10, 2025

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

My name is Odalis Aguilar and I'm writing today in strong support of HB 3193. Our union represents over 39,000 workers across the state in both public and private sectors and we believe in economic and social justice for all Oregon workers and their families.

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, and pandemics. These conditions in which our farmworkers have continued working in despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

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.

Under the 2021 Drought Package, the Oregon legislature allocated \$10 million dollars to create a temporary fund for farmworkers who lost work and wages due to extreme weather. This fund helped support 9,569 farmworkers across 34 counties. HB 3193 will create a permanent relief program under the Oregon Health Authority to support farmworkers who lose work and wages due to extreme weather conditions.

While other sectors have transitioned to working remotely from the comfort of their own homes, farmworkers continue to show up everyday in the fields despite extreme weather. These workers are forced to endure working conditions that can negatively impact their health and too often, farmworkers already lack access to healthcare. We strongly urge you to vote YES on HB 3193, to provide protections and support for our farmworkers in Oregon.

In solidarity,
Odalis Aguilar
Oregon AFSCME