

Submitter: Anna Caporael  
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: Anna Caporael  
Subject: YES on HB3193

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

My name is Anna Caporael, I live in Portland, Oregon and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworkers 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 despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

4 generations ago, my ancestors immigrated to United States of America to farm and ranch in upstate New York. This life has never been easy, yet it is an industry that supports many across the U.S.A. I have worked in food and beverage for the past 33 years. If farmworkers are undersupported and under valued they leave the industry and we are left with food shortages or labor shortages that result in poor practices. This affects whole communities, states and the entire nation with the economic impact of increased illnesses, less ability to work which leads to more reliance on public programs. Farmworkers are essential just as healthcare workers proved to be essential through the COVID 19 pandemic. Farmers are often paid the least and have the least access to healthcare and benefits. Oregon has over 72,000 farmworkers. I have family members who are farmworkers and are the fabric of the U.S.A.

Please note my support of measure HB 3193. I urge you to vote YES on HB 3193, to provide protections and support for our farmworkers in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Anna Caporael