

Submitter: Kaylie Barfield
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

Hi,

My name is Kbar, Ive been working on farms and in the food industry my whole life. I know from first hand experience how important healthy, fresh food is for our communities and with that we will not survive. I know the work and labour that goes into producing such things and I I think there's no way for us to cultivate healthy communities without supporting our farm workers.

During the wildfires in 202 I was working in the Willamette Valley during the wildfires providing lunches to the farm workers on the vineyards. I remember driving to work one day through Gaston and the fires were apocalyptic. There was so much smoke it was dark. You had to wear a gasman's to ever go outside and there was no ability to breathe without one. Every single vineyard owner that we provided lunches to that year decided that picking grapes was more important than their workers. Picking grapes for wine, was more important than people, How ridiculous and classist. could you imagine if that was you? could you imagine that your life was considered less important than an alcoholic beverages for rich people or privileged people?

This isn't a problem just for the workers, this affects all of us. If we don't have nutrients or healthy food or regenerative farming practices we are going to ruin our earth and our bodies. This is a now issue, not a tomorrow issue.

Ive seen access to food dwindle more and more over the last 20 years that ive been integrated into farms and the food industry. Healthy food is a human right, not only for the people that can afford it. We must help each other. Please don't turn a blind eye, and make sure to come sit at the table with us.

Thank you