

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

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

My name is Ethan Leung. I live in Portland, OR and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

I am in support of the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund because having to choose between safety and a paycheck shouldn't even be a question. In order to continue to work effectively they also need to be healthy and safe.

As a chef I strive to use local, quality, and sustainable ingredients as best as I can. I also want to be conscious of labor practices and understand that the workers are being treated fairly and are safe. I would have a guilty conscious if I learned that the ingredients I use was at the expense of another's health because of harsh conditions. Working in restaurants we have the privilege to choose whether to open or close because of severe weather conditions, and I believe farmworkers should have the same privilege as well.

Farmworkers are essential in Oregon because they're not just workers, they're everyday people like you and I. They are the backbone of our food system and by having them work in dangerous conditions means they are at risk of developing health issues, which would result in larger scale issue.

Thank you for your time,
Ethan Leung