

Testimony on HB 3193 Submitted by Oregon Winegrowers Association House Committee on Labor and Workforce Standards March 10, 2025

Chair Grayber, vice-chair Elmer and members of the committee,

The Oregon Winegrowers Association (OWA) is a member-driven advocacy organization advancing the interests of the largest agricultural economic impact sector in Oregon. We have hundreds of winery and vineyard members representing over two-thirds of Oregon's wine production. For more than 40 years, OWA has advocated for policies that support the health, growth and economic sustainability of Oregon's wine industry.

Our vineyard stewards play a vital role in sustaining Oregon's economy and ensuring that the state can continue to produce world class wine. OWA recognizes that extreme heat, drought, and wildfires are becoming more common, and we know firsthand the impact those natural disasters have on our workers, our most important asset. These weather events can have significant financial impacts on farmworkers, and there is currently no permanent state program to provide financial relief to these farmworkers during such crises.

House Bill 3193 would require the Oregon Health Authority to create a program offering financial relief to farmworkers who lose income from natural disasters. An allocation of \$10 million would ensure the program is sufficient to meet the needs of farmworkers across the state. The program would provide economic stability for farmworkers, promote equity and fairness in the ag sector, and strengthen community resilience.

The Oregon Winegrowers Association supports HB 3193.