

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

My name is Carlo Lamagna, I live in Portland and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker 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 in despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

I grew up in Detroit to an immigrant family. During my time there we have traveled to the rural areas in Michigan to purchase food from local farms in the 80's, as this was the way of life that we brought with us from the Philippines. When I moved back to the Philippines as a teenager, I worked on my grandmother's farm in the summer, so I have gained a deep understanding of the hard work that goes into our food. Many years later, as a chef here in Portland, that food system chain is more important now, with the knowledge of where our food comes from and recognizing the importance of taking care of our people each step of the way. Without the people, our economy won't work. Let's focus on them and give them the rights and benefits that they deserve.