

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
From: Maycell Villanueva  
Subject: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Maycell Villanueva, I live in SE Portland and 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 exposure to wildfire smoke and unhealthy air quality.

HB 3193 will provide temporary financial relief to farmworkers in Oregon who lose work on 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 farm workers have continued working in despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

My friends and family who have been farm workers worked through illness, heat stress, over exposure to sun, and wild fire smoke. While my job has considerations for us for unsafe conditions which I'm able to work around and or postpone to prioritize mine and my communities safety, farm workers don't have that accessibility and have to sacrifice their current selves, their future selves, their family's health, and the future costs of their labor because of the impacts to their bodies and health in the now.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 3193, to provide protections and support for our farmworkers in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Maycell Villanueva