

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

To the House Committee on labor and workplace standards - Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Munoz, and members of the committee

Please vote YES and support HB 3193

My name is Shannon Hiller-Webb and am born and raised in Portland, OR and a lifelong Oregonian. I am writing to request that you think critically and with deep empathy on the necessity of supporting HB3193 - the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

I have been a part of many aspects of our state food ecosystem and understand the importance of access to fresh, healthy food to our community, neighbors and the historical inequity that has existed.

I have had an opportunity to connect with farm workers and the demands they experience in normal conditions to bring food to our farmers markets, grocers, chefs, makers, Copackers, our tables and the hardship they have. As we continue to experience greater and growing environmental impacts - the climate crisis has created dire work conditions for those in the fields.

I know for myself that the fires and recent ears have made breathing the air so troublesome that I feel fortunate, I can stay indoors and attempt to mitigate the air quality. However, I know those in the fields do not have the same luxury and are forced with unfair working conditions like extreme smoke and poor air quality to put themselves in harms way, and suffer for the sake of others. What we are requesting is that you recognize the humane working conditions as a basic requirement given the ongoing and continuing climate crisis where we will be seeing extreme weather conditions. Putting in place minimum work requirement conditions that respect the human lives that are placed in these situations without any control because they need to provide for their families and themselves, we owe it to them to do better. They deserve to have voices representing them who care and understand that they should be cared for that is what we do so I hope that today and in every way going forward you think of them in our collective who benefit from their sacrifice and preserving their rights to basic quality working conditions.

We know farm workers 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.
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.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this bill, Shannon