



March 10, 2025

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Isa Peña and I am here in my capacity as Executive Committee member of Oregon Worker Relief. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on behalf of **Oregon Worker Relief** in support of HB 3193.

Oregon Worker Relief is a statewide network of community-based organizations striving to solve the exclusionary impacts our community faces by providing support to immigrants and refugees in Oregon and building systems that support prosperity for all. We believe that by ensuring everyone has access to basic rights and protections, we build stronger communities where all Oregon families can thrive.

As extreme heat and wildfires become more common in Oregon, agricultural workers are forced to choose between working in dangerous conditions or losing a paycheck. The roughly 72,000 farmworkers are among the poorest in Oregon, and should not have to put their lives on the line or their health at risk in order to make ends meet and support their families. The hard work of Oregon farmworkers supports our economy and ensures families are fed across the state. Currently, there are limited protections in place to ensure the safety of these essential workers during extreme weather events.

Oregon Worker Relief, through our Climate Change Fund, has been able to provide life saving financial support for more than 10,200 Oregonians across 35 of 36 counties. These are people who have risked their lives in extreme weather conditions. This was an investment the legislature made to support Oregon farmworkers after deaths of workers in the field following extreme weather events. We are thankful for that investment and see the need to make this funding permanent to protect Oregon farmworkers. HB 3193 seeks to make permanent a fund in the Oregon Health Authority so that Oregon protects Oregon workers who face the most risks posed by the climate crisis.

The Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund will provide stability and safety to farmworkers and **we strongly urge your support of HB 3193.**

Isa Peña, Executive Committee Member
Oregon Worker Relief