

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
FROM: Mareshet Pulliam  
SUBJECT: Support of HB 3193

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

My name is Mareshet Pulliam. I live in Salem and attend Willamette University. I am writing about HB3193 to urge you to vote yes on the Disaster Relief Fund.

Our agriculture industry in Oregon garners around \$6 billion, but farmworkers who are on the frontlines and vulnerable to harsh conditions earn an average of \$34,000 annually. We depend on their labor through dangerous conditions, yet historically, they have been excluded from federal social and labor protections. This bill is important as it recognizes the need for a safety net as they experience climate or other disasters that cause them to lose out on a paycheck.

In 2020, we saw farmworkers who continued to work despite the risk to themselves and their families. For many, not working was not an option as resources were scarce, and few met all their needs. Their status as essential workers continues not to be reflected through protective measures. It is expected that heat safety standards will double for agriculture workers by 2050. We have seen extreme heat waves that cause smokey conditions as they are working. This exposure has the potential for long-term health risks. We need relief now that offers people who don't have other options during these disastrous times.

HB 3193 will provide a fund for these hardworking people to choose their and their families' health and safety. It will also provide some security that allows them to pay for their basic expenses like housing, food, utilities, transportation, and childcare. This is a matter that needs action now as they continue to be at the frontline of the climate crisis.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3191, which would protect farmworkers, who are a vulnerable part of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mareshet Pulliam