



Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Muñoz and Elmer, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3193.

I am the Executive Director of Pueblo Unido, a nonprofit organization that connects Oregonians from present-day Mexico, Central, and South America to legal, social, and Indigenous language interpretation services.

As extreme heat, wildfires, and other weather events become more frequent in Oregon, agricultural workers may be forced to choose between working in dangerous conditions or losing a paycheck. The roughly 72,000 farmworkers in Oregon are among the poorest of our state, and they should not be forced to put their lives on the line just to support their families.

Pueblo Unido and the Collective of Indigenous Interpreters of Oregon (CIIO) helps provide interpretation services to many farmworkers who need a variety of types of assistance. Whether it be seeking healthcare, talking to local schools, or getting a certification for employment, Pueblo Unido can help.

After several Oregon farmworkers sadly died following extreme weather events, the Legislature created the Climate Change Fund a few years ago to provide financial support to those working in extreme weather conditions. Through this investment, Pueblo Unido and CIIO were able to navigate over 2,000 Oregonians to relief funds. We are thankful for that investment, and see the need to make this funding permanent to protect farmworkers.

HB 3193 would establish this as a permanent fund within the Oregon Health Authority, allowing our state to further protect Oregon workers who face the biggest risks associated with devastating weather events and climate change.

This bill will provide stability and safety to farmworkers. We urge your strong support of HB 3193.

Sincerely,

Cam Coval
Executive Director - Pueblo Unido