

Submitter: Joslyn Baker  
On Behalf Of: Sacred Organizing Coalition  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
FROM: Joslyn Baker  
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Joslyn Baker , I live in North Portland and I 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 exposures to wildfire smoke and unhealthy air quality.

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.

Growing and harvesting food is such hard labor that often these jobs are hard to filled and so people who are desperate for work step up. I am so grateful for their labor. However, like all workers, farmworkers in Oregon should be afforded safe conditions, protections and when needed paid time away from work. During the 30+ years I have lived in Portland, I have noticed that extreme weather (heat and cold) happens more often and the tempertature highs and lows and more extreme as well. We all know this is a result of climate change and while we need to do everything we can to improve the climate, right now farmworkers need protections and support. Yes on HB 3193

I enjoy the seasonal bounty of fruits and vegetables available across Oregon, but not at the cost of people be exploited or treated as lesser than. Oregon has built a thriving destination for people to live and visit and agriculture is a huge part. There

are so many reasons for you to vote Yes on HB 3193 and to talk with your colleagues so they will do the same. Now more than ever ALL people, including farmworkers, need elected leaders to step up and take action to protect them. By investing in Oregon farmworkers Oregon will continue to thrive.

Sincerely - Joslyn Baker