

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
FROM: Macy Haro  
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Macy Haro, and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farmworkers are the backbone of our food systems and a staple of the Oregon economy. They are also the first to experience the effects of extreme weather conditions due to the nature of the job, often left to face intense heat and exposure to wildfire smoke and unhealthy air quality. According to the CDC, farmworkers have a life expectancy of 49 years compared to the 73 years of life expectancy for the general U.S. population. Therefore, it's not difficult to see the danger inherent in the job, a danger that only worsens as climate change compounds globally.

Increasingly, severe wildfire seasons and extreme weather patterns caused by climate change have only made the job more hazardous for farmworkers. They cannot afford to take a day off despite the growing risks of the job.

I am in support of the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund because I recognize the contributions of farmworkers to the state. Farm labor largely goes unseen by the general public, as do the issues they face in the workplace. Lack of protections for farmworkers means that a single day of lost wages can destabilize their rent and food on the table. They risk their lives in extreme weather—snow, hail, wildfires, flooding pandemics—because there is no other option. No one should have to live in fear of missing a day at the risk of their children being unable to eat.

The Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund will help farm workers stay safe and continue to contribute to our food system in Oregon. With this aid, farmworkers will be able to continue contributing to food production without worrying about the loss of their jobs or lives due to weather factors out of their control.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3193, to provide protections and support for our farmworkers in Oregon.

Thank you,

Macy Haro