

Submitter: Mira Wood Bolanos  
On Behalf Of: Leaven Community  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

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

My name is Mira Wood Bolanos, I live in NE Portland and am a member of the Leaven Community and the Sacred Organizing Coalition. I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

I have lived in NW Oregon for 21 years, with the many of those years spent in agricultural communities like Woodburn and Cornelius. I have developed friendships and working relationships with neighbors and community members working in agricultural and have visited multiple farms where agricultural workers live for seasons. These friends and neighbors are not only the reason for the abundance of healthy, fresh food in our region, but they contribute so much to our communities as people. And their voices need to be amplified!

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.

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

Sincerely,  
Mira Wood Bolanos