

Name: Jordyn White

On behalf of:

Committee: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure or topic: HB3193

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

My name is Jordyn White and I am from Salem. I am writing in support of HB3193, the farmworker disaster relief fund.

Farm workers are essential for Oregon's prosperity. They are the reason we have food on the table, and create wide exports that help boost our economy. Yet, Farmworkers are continuously excluded from protections and forced to work in harsh conditions for little pay.

Farmworkers continued to work throughout the pandemic with little to no protections. They weren't provided clean water or PPE until community organizations became first responders and provided that for them. How come it took a pandemic for people to realize the terrible conditions farmworkers work in? It took a global pandemic for the world to recognize how farmworkers are essential to this country. Farmworkers should not be forced between working in dangerous weather conditions or missing out on a paycheck. They should not be forced to work in brutal heat or cold. We have to think about the well-being of farmworkers and the toll of working in extreme weather has done to their bodies.

HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund, will provide farmworkers who lose work and wages financial relief. Climate change is more than just extreme heat and smoke. HB 3193 will highlight this and define a qualifying disaster as more than just heat and smoke. This includes, snow storms, heavy rain, flooding, pandemics, etc. Everyone deserves to be protected from dangerous working conditions.

As someone who has loved ones who work in agriculture, this bill will protect our essential workers and create a more safe environment for our Farmworkers. Everyone deserves to be protected at work, everyone deserves to be seen and supported.

Please vote in favor of HB 3193, and support our farmworkers!