



CENTRO

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
Re: Support for HB 3193

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

My name is Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural. I am writing to strongly support HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally-specific organization in Oregon. Centro was founded 50 years ago by 14 migrant families who believed in creating a vibrant and cohesive society that is shared, valued, and open for community members from different ethnicities and backgrounds. Since then, Centro has served as a safe place for our local Latino community, low-income migrant farmworkers, immigrant refugee communities, and all who come to our doors. Our mission is to be a home for Latino cultures, serving the needs of our diverse community by promoting personal growth and empowerment. To create lasting change for families of color and low-income individuals, stimulate systems change, and work with key stakeholders to reduce barriers and provide essential resources and services for the families we serve. Since our founders decided to begin this journey in 1972, Centro has continued to grow to ensure our community members thrive, working with regional, state, county, and city-wide agencies to advocate for more resources and equitable systems change to support communities of color.

We are reminded about our past, present, and future when supporting Oregon farmworkers. As an organization founded by farmworkers, Centro is committed to bridging the gaps that farmworkers face in the workforce. Farmworkers are the backbone of Oregon and across the nation. Oregon has a strong agricultural economy, and it's because we have a strong labor force, which is why we need to support any efforts that provide our farmworkers with stabilization, especially during extreme weather conditions.

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 terms of 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 despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.



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Your support is crucial in this endeavor. I strongly urge you to SUPPORT HB 3193. Oregon farmworkers need our support to ensure that they continue to thrive, and continue making Oregon a leader in the agriculture industry.

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural