

Submitter: Austin Payne
On Behalf Of:
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 Austin Payne, I attend Willamette University and I am writing in support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

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, flooding, pandemics, etc. Conditions in which our farmworkers have continued working in despite the dangerous impacts to them.

Farmworkers do some of the toughest work while being one of the most under-resourced groups of individuals. This bill will provide workers with much needed help in extreme times, incentivizing workers to stay here and creating growth in the agriculture industry which in return provides growth to other industries. When workers face financial hardship due to lost wages from extreme weather, they are often forced to seek employment elsewhere, leaving farms understaffed and struggling to meet demand. By providing temporary relief, this bill will help retain experienced workers, reduce economic insecurity, and strengthen Oregon’s agricultural sector for the long term.

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

Thank you,
Austin Payne