

Submitter: Elise Moore  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
FROM: Your name  
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Elise Moore, I live in Portland, Oregon and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

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 am an owner of a small business that works out of the Portland Farmers Markets and work directly with many hard-working farmers. My business relies on the ability to access fresh, local produce and proteins every week. As a person who must also work outside in extreme conditions, I feel very lucky that I can choose to shut down my business if a weekend presents itself as dangerous to work thru. I would much rather see my farm workers also take those days off and it be more difficult to source the products I need during these extreme weather moments. Their health and wellness is more important than my convivence.

I am also the daughter/ granddaughter/ niece and cousin to many farmers. Although my family farms in FL I have personal knowledge of workers experiencing heat sickness and even heat strokes that happened due to extreme heat and led to death in multiple instances over the decades my family worked in farming. Although that

experience was in FL we cannot ignore the raising temperature our summers have been showing us here in Oregon and I fear our farm workers could easily face the same fate of sickness or even death due to climate change. I have made the mistake of working one very hot Saturday at PSU Farmers Market, where the temps hit over 118 degrees in my tent and I had to shut down early due to getting heat sickness. I do work with a great deal of heated equipment but at least I have the coverage of a tent saving me from direct sunlight which a farm worker does not have.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope that it helps you to understand the need to protect our very important farm workers with this bill.

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

Sincerely,  
Elise Moore