



# community alliance of tenants

March 12th, 2025  
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

## Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Alexis Ames, and I am the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Oregon's only statewide, grassroots, tenant-led renters' rights organization. I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 3193**, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farmworkers in Oregon play a crucial role in our food system and economy, but they often lack important labor protections. Climate change has made their situation worse. Agricultural workers face a higher risk of dying from heat-related illnesses—35 times more than those in other jobs. Additionally, extreme weather events like wildfires and poor air quality threaten their health and economic security.

As an organization that supports tenants' rights, CAT knows that lost wages from extreme weather put farmworker families at a higher risk of eviction and displacement. Many renters in these communities already struggle with housing insecurity, and without financial help, they cannot afford basic needs. HB 3193 acknowledges the important work of farmworkers and ensures they get support when disasters threaten their livelihoods.

**HB 3193** ensures that farmworkers who lose wages due to extreme weather conditions receive financial relief. This bill expands the definition of a "qualifying disaster" to include not only heat and wildfire smoke but also snowstorms, floods, pandemics, and other severe weather events that prevent workers from earning a living. No worker should have to choose between their safety and their paycheck.

We must recognize the dignity of farmworkers and their sacrifices in feeding our communities. Oregon cannot ignore their challenges and must protect them from climate change's impacts. Please vote YES on **HB 3193** for the relief and respect farmworkers deserve.

Sincerely,  
Alexis Ames  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Community Alliance of Tenants  
Email: [alexis@oregoncat.org](mailto:alexis@oregoncat.org)