

Submitter: Sophia Rosenberg
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: Sophia Rosenberg
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is Sophia Rosenberg, I live in Salem, 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.

Farmworkers are ESSENTIAL in Oregon to our communities, food systems, economy, and part of what makes Oregon so special. Farm workers are human beings, and deserve the basic human right of a safe workplace environment. No person should be exposed to such a dangerous workplace, and it's our responsibility to do our part to prevent health hazards from extreme heat, pollution exposure, extreme weather event conditions, and more. These impacts are directly linked to climate change impacts that are only going to increase in severity in the future. It is in our best interest to support this bill now to safeguard our essential farmworks for the future.

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

Sincerely,
Sophia Rosenberg