



350PDX
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Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

Date: March 11, 2025

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

Subject: Support HB 3193, Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund

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

We write in support of HB 3193 on behalf of 350PDX, a grassroots climate and environmental organization with thousands of members in the Portland area. While our organization and others like it are doing everything we can to mitigate and reverse climate change, its impacts are already upon us, and those on the frontlines of these impacts are often communities of color, people with low income, people in rural communities, and people with disabilities. The Farmworker Disaster Relief fund will support Oregon's essential agricultural workers by creating a consistent fund to provide relief to farmworkers who have lost income due to a disaster. In the past, we have supported short-term funds for farmworker disaster relief for heat and smoke damage. These temporary funds inevitably run out and must be requested each budget cycle. It is imperative that this fund becomes a regular part of the Oregon budget unless and until we provide greater protections and higher pay for farmworkers, and/or we reverse climate change so these types of disasters are less common.

Oregon agriculture makes up 13% of the state's gross product and our economy gains \$5.01 billion from agricultural production.¹ If continuing funding is not approved, Oregon farmers will not be fully supported in future disaster situations. Providing state funding so farmworkers can take days off during emergency situations without losing pay is important for their health and wellbeing, and yet, this is an economic hardship for many farms to incur with their already-slim profit margins. The Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund helps ensure the safety of farmworkers while assisting those trying to run their farming businesses.

By expanding the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund to include a broader definition of disaster, Oregon farmers and farmworkers can have peace of mind when it comes to being protected. For this reason we hope that you support HB 3193.

Charlie Welling
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¹<https://www.oregonfb.org/oregon-agriculture#:~:text=In%20Oregon%2C%20agriculture%20makes%20up%2013%%20of,from%20the%20Oregon%20state%20Board%20of%20Agriculture.>