



4145 NE Cully Blvd., Portland, OR, 97630 | 503-290-8570

March 10, 2025

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

RE: Support HB 3193

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

My name is Xitlali Torres, I am the Air Quality and Climate Program Coordinator at Verde, a community-based organization whose mission is to build environmental wealth through organizing, advocacy, and social enterprise. I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, a bill that would provide temporary financial relief to farmworkers in Oregon who lose work or wages due to extreme weather conditions.

Our farmworkers are essential to the prosperity of Oregon, they do the groundwork that sustains our agricultural economy and puts food on our tables. At the same time, in addition to [other inequalities](#), our farmworkers have and will experience disproportionate impacts of [an extreme climate](#). When extreme weather strikes, our farmworkers stop work to be safe, at the expense of missing out on a paycheck, a paycheck that is already [too low](#) to live well on. HB 3193 will address this issue to provide temporary financial relief to workers who lose work and wages due to these increasing extreme weather conditions.

Over the last few years, Oregon has faced an increase in extreme weather conditions such as deadly heat waves, unprecedented wildfires, and unhealthy air quality. Agriculture workers are especially at risk of experiencing complications from climate impacts, research shows that they are [35 times more likely to die](#) from heat exposure than workers in other industries. HB 3193 will define a “qualifying disaster” regarding extreme weather as more than just extreme heat and smoke. This includes snow storms, ice storms, heavy rain, flooding, pandemics, etc. These are conditions in which our farmworkers have continued working despite the dangerous impacts on them physically and mentally.

This bill comes after previously successful initiatives, the 2021 drought package, and later additions to the fund supported 9,569 farm workers. It will build on that success to create a permanent fund under the Oregon Health Authority. Oregonians take pride in our action on climate change and justice for historically disadvantaged communities, HB 3193 moves us further. Verde is especially supportive of HB 3193 because many farmworkers tend to be part of the communities we serve.

We urge you to support HB 3193, to provide protections and support for Oregon’s farmworkers. Thank you.

Xitlali Torres

Air Quality and Climate Program Coordinator, Verde



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