

TO: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
RE: Support of HB 3193  
DATE: March 12, 2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Munoz, and members of the committee.

My name is Kyrsten Smith and **I urge you to vote in support of HB 3193, the farmworkers disaster relief fund, to protect our farmworkers.** I am a student at Willamette University, but I call Condon, OR home. Many of you are probably unfamiliar with my hometown. It is a small community of 700 people. My town is surrounded by cattle ranches and wheat and barley fields that span for miles in every direction. Over the years, I have watched as fires spread and destroy the livelihoods of many farming and ranching families in the area. This past summer, I watched first-hand as the Lonerock Fire quickly grew, destroying cattle grazeland. I am a volunteer firefighter, and was one of the first people to show up on scene during the initial suppression efforts. Immediately after I arrived, there were farmers with water trucks standing by ready to help protect land, no matter who currently farmed the area. This was the first time I truly saw how hard farmworkers work to maintain their lifestyles. This is the spirit of our vital agricultural community workers.

My experience with farmworkers and fire are just one of the many ways farmworkers are challenged in their industry. These individuals, families, and communities work through extreme weather conditions yearly as our climate continues to change. Working in the grain elevators during harvest season, I have seen the quality of our grain increase and decrease with weather conditions. These are things that cannot be controlled by the farmers, but their lives are greatly affected by them.

**House Bill 3193 will ensure that we give the necessary support for farmworkers to maintain financial stability for themselves, their families, and their businesses as unforeseen weather events affect the quality of their crop.** Again, I urge you to support HB 3193 and stand with our farm workers as they are the backbone of our agricultural community.

Thank you,

Kyrsten Smith