

Submitter: Doug Trotter
On Behalf Of: Sacred Organizing Coalition
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
FROM: Doug Trotter
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3193

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

My name is __Doug Trotter____, I live in __Portland_____ and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farm worker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farm workers 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 farm workers 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 farm workers have continued working in despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

There are over 72,000 Oregon farm workers who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6 billion to our state’s economy. But ever with this massive contribution, farm worker lack basic protections and an average of just \$34, 000 per year and we need to change that and make sure out farm worker neighbors do not have to choose between safety and their paycheck. With climate change a real and present danger to them (as well as the rest of society), in the form of extreme heat or smoke or other environmental extreme, they cannot afford to miss work and a paycheck to support their already struggling families.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important bill.

Doug Trotter