



March 12, 2025

**To:** House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

**Re:** Support for HB 3193, Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund

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

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) respectfully submits this testimony **in support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.**

CCC is a member-based non-profit that advocates for Oregon's communities of color, including immigrants, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, many of whom are employed in agricultural industries as farm workers.

This policy will create a permanent relief program under the Oregon Health Authority to support farmworkers who lose work and wages due to extreme weather conditions, and define a "qualifying disaster" to include snow storms, ice storms, heavy rain, flooding, pandemics, etc.

Farmworkers in Oregon number over 72,000, a majority immigrant workforce that puts food on our tables and contributes over \$6 billion to our state's economy. Despite their vast economic contributions, farmworkers lack basic protections and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually.

Research has shown that agricultural workers are 35 times more likely to die from heat-related stress than workers in other industries and that 3 in 4 farmworkers reported exposure to an unhealthy amount of smoke but reported no changes to their work activities.

Farmworkers are an essential workforce who show up regardless of extreme weather conditions like snow, heat, and wildfire smoke. Workers should not be forced to choose between working in life-threatening conditions or feeding their families.

We thank you for your service on this committee and urge you to take action to safeguard the health of Oregon's farmworker labor force.

Sincerely,

Alex Riedlinger, Advocacy Manager  
Coalition of Communities of Color