



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Dacia Grayber, Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Workforce Standards  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 3193 - **OPPOSE**

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

Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) is the statewide trade association and voice of nearly 1,000 small, family-owned businesses that provide the workforce essential to managing Oregon's forests. We represent Oregon's firefighters, loggers, restoration contractors, reforestation companies and other forest contractors. Our members, who collectively employ close to 23,000 Oregonians, are deeply committed to the safety and wellbeing of their employees.

Many join AOL because of our extensive safety programming. We are the leading organization providing safety services to forest contractors through a deeply rooted relationship with SAIF.

AOL also sincerely values our diverse membership and the Hispanic-owned small businesses we represent, play an essential role in Oregon's forestry sector. Recognizing the unique challenges these businesses face, AOL added a full-time bilingual staff position three years ago to provide targeted support. This individual, a former reforestation contractor, offers critical safety services including hands on CPR/First Aid classes in Spanish. He also ensures that businesses are properly classified for workers' compensation insurance—preventing exploitation and promoting fair practices.

**However, we are opposed to HB 3193 because it represents an unnecessary and inequitable use of taxpayer dollars.**

No other industry with outdoor workers requests direct compensation from the state for weather-related work stoppages. Our member companies routinely experience prolonged shutdowns due to Industrial Fire Precaution Level 4 restrictions, which completely halt operations to prevent wildfire risk. In many cases, logging contractors voluntarily suspend work due to hazardous conditions, while at other times, they are required to stop by federal or state agencies. These work stoppages are in addition to compliance with stringent OR-OSHA heat and smoke rules. Yet, our members do not receive state funding to offset lost wages. Instead, affected workers rely on unemployment insurance—just as the system is designed to function.

Furthermore, HB 3193 introduces a new definition of "farmworker" that appears to encompass a broad range of forestry professionals, including tree planters, loggers, and restoration crews. This classification is inconsistent with existing statutory definitions. If the legislature intends to provide benefits to agricultural workers, it should use the established definition in ORS 653.271 to prevent confusion and ensure alignment with other labor laws and programs.

Rather than allocating millions of taxpayer dollars for a one-off program, we urge the legislature to prioritize fully funding state agencies like the Oregon Department of Forestry, BOLI, and emergency response programs that benefit all Oregonians.

We appreciate the hard work of Oregon's agricultural and forestry workers, but HB 3193 is neither necessary nor fiscally responsible. We respectfully urge a NO vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Amanda Sullivan-Astor, CF**

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