

Submitter: Alai Reyes-Santos  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee,

My name is Alai Reyes-Santos, and I live in Marcola, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to prioritize HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farmworkers 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 farmworkers in Oregon who lose work or wages due to extreme weather conditions. Farmworkers continue working in extreme weather conditions, from heat domes to the cold, despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

This bill matters to me because it is supporting one of our most vulnerable and essential communities during emergencies and extreme weather conditions. How could the people who ensure that there is food in the state suffer hunger, poverty, eviction because they do not have access to support during such hard times? In my community engagement work with farm workers, I have personally heard the terror in people's voices when sharing their experiences during wildfires, ice storms, heat waves. Where do we go? How will I pay rent next month? How do I feed my kids?

We must prioritize the health and safety of our farmworkers. I urge you to prioritize the full \$10 million budget request for HB 3193 because farmworkers deserve a life of dignity and security.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Alai Reyes-Santos  
Marcola, Oregon