

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

My name is Tabitha Joaquin, and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to prioritize HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

In Oregon, an average farmworker makes around \$34,500 annually, living paycheck to paycheck to support their families. Farmworkers are also 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 HB 3193 matters because we have a responsibility to take care of those who take care of us. Farmworkers are an important part of our communities that we often leave out of labor laws and other protective measures. They keep our communities fed even when they themselves are struggling to feed their families. It is time to show the same respect and protections we have offered other workers across the state.

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,
Tabitha Joaquin,
(Eugene, Lane County)