

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

My name is Eliza Smith, and I live in Benton County, 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 personally because I grew up working side-by-side with full-time farmworkers on my family's farm and have seen and experienced the effects of extreme weather conditions on farm workers as well as the pressure to continue working despite these conditions because there is no financial safety net in place for them to take time off work due to extreme weather. I'm in support of this bill because everyone in Oregon deserves a safe and dignified workplace and farmworkers have historically been excluded from many measures to promote safe workplaces in the United States. I know from my personal experience as a farmworker (seasonally from 2007-present) the impacts of climate change on our communities. The growing seasons are hotter, drier, and smokier than they have ever been before and that has taken a toll on my body and the bodies of my fellow workers. We must take the changing climate into account when establishing safety measures for farm workers, and the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund is a critical step to ensuring workers are protected for generations to come.

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

Sincerely,

Eliza Smith

Benton County