

April 25, 2025

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

I urge you to prioritize HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farmworkers are essential laborers. They put food on our tables. As a matter of basic fairness we -- *anyone* who benefits from their labor -- must ensure that these members of our community work and live in conditions of safety and dignity.

As you know, 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.

We must prioritize the health and safety of our farmworkers. I urge you to prioritize the *full \$10 million budget request* for HB 3193. As a matter of fairness -- fundamental, basic fairness -- these essential members of our community deserve, like the rest of us, to live and work in safe, dignified conditions.

Sincerely,

Tamara Metz

2547 se 38th Ave

Portland OR 97202