



June 11, 2025

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am the Policy Advocacy Director at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. PCUN aims to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

On behalf of our members, I am providing testimony in support of HB 3194 -6 which would establish joint liability for landowners and farmworker camp operators when farmworker camps fail to meet legal standards. This bill is an essential step in protecting the rights, health, and safety of Oregon farmworkers.

Farmworkers play a critical role in our state's economy, yet many continue to live in substandard housing due to lack of oversight and accountability. HB 3194 -6 addresses this issue by making landowners jointly responsible with camp operators when they know, or should know, that unlicensed or unregistered farmworker housing exists on their property. The bill also creates a presumption of non-liability for landowners who take proactive steps such as a written lease agreement that prohibits unregistered camps. These updates strike a balance by holding negligent landowners accountable while protecting those who act in good faith.

This bill has several key benefits such as:

- Improving living conditions. Farmworker camps will be subject to greater scrutiny, leading to better housing, sanitation, and overall living conditions for workers.
- Greater accountability. Landowners will no longer be able to avoid responsibility for violations occurring on their property, ensuring that all parties involved in farmworker housing comply with the law.
- Fairness in the industry. Ensures that responsible farm operators are not undercut by those who cut corners on worker housing and safety.
- Stronger protections. It provides workers with clearer legal pathways to seek remedies when they are subjected to unfair substandard living conditions.

On behalf of PCUN, I urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 3194 -6 and help create a safer, more just environment for the hardworking individuals who sustain our agricultural sector.

Ira Cuello-Martinez  
Policy Advocacy Director  
PCUN