



Jan 13, 2020

Senate Interim Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, members of the committee.

My name is Martha Sonato, I am the Political Director at PCUN- Oregon's Farmworker Union. On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on LC 19. I also appreciate the work that legislators have done over the past couple of months to continue the momentum on finding a solution.

For more than 30 years, PCUN has been working to strengthen worker rights with an environmental justice lens in our communities. From Woodburn to Hood River, Astoria to Southern Oregon, our members work outside in the fruit orchards, nurseries and cutting down Christmas trees. Our farmworkers, and their children are rural Oregonians and we feel the impact of climate change first hand. Imagine working, covered head to toe to reduce exposure to pesticides, while temperatures grow hotter each year. **Our communities feel the direct impact of climate change, and they are also exposed to other chemical toxins, that are aggravated by extreme heat.**

That is why PCUN remains committed to ensuring there are significant investments for climate impacted communities. By investing in resilience, we are increasing the wellbeing of all of our communities and especially our children. We need to see real investments in job creation and training, economic development and infrastructure, such as building retrofit grants and farmworker housing grants. The current LC 19 version is better than other proposals we've seen. Some notable changes that we support include the definition of "Impacted communities" in Section 4 (22) and a methodology for designating impacted communities in Section 103. Additionally, this current proposal has made significant headway by designating majority of investment to "impacted communities" from the Climate Investments Fund in Section 39.

We commend the countless hours done by this committee to prioritize climate change. We recommend that this committee provide stronger direction to ensure investments go to impacted communities. Additionally, our members would support a bill that ensures that our communities are reflected in this legislation in meaningful governance, in voting power in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Board and engagement in decision making structures.

On behalf of our farmworkers and children, we look forward to participating in the process to ensure that impacted communities across Oregon have a voice in this bill. Thank you for your time.

Martha Sonato
Political Director
PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union