

Submitter: Emily Herbert  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3193

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
Emily Herbert of Dallas, OR  
Yes on HB 3193

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Herbert. I live in Dallas Oregon and I am writing in strong support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund.

Farmworkers are often the first to experience the impacts of extreme weather conditions because they are working out of doors. 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. HB 3193 will define a “qualifying disaster” in regards to extreme weather as more than just extreme heat and smoke. This includes snow storms, ice storms, heavy raining, flooding, pandemics, etc. Conditions in which our farmworkers have continued to work despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

My grandparents farmed in Lake County through the Depression, and that hard life took its toll on their bodies and minds when there was no global climate chaos. Presently my son and his wife are living and working on a small acreage in Polk Co and it is very difficult in this time of changing harsh conditions to grow trees and a garden to supplement their meager income. Farm workers are the heart of our food system. They deserve as well as need the protection of the Disaster Relief Fund.