

March 10, 2025

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of **Innovation Law Lab** in support of HB 3193. Innovation Law Lab is an organization that leverages technology, advocacy and law to advance immigrant and refugee justice. Innovation Law Lab is also a proud member of Oregon Worker Relief, a statewide network of community-based organizations striving to solve the exclusionary impacts our community faces by providing direct aid to immigrants and refugees in Oregon and building systems that support mutual prosperity for all.

Oregon Worker Relief through our Climate Change Fund, has been able to provide life saving financial support for more than 10,200 Oregonians across 35 of Oregon's 36 counties, who have had to risk their lives in extreme weather conditions. This was a multi-biennium investment the Legislature made to support Oregon farmworkers after extreme weather events led to the death of people working in our fields. We are thankful for that investment and see the need to make this funding permanent to protect Oregon farmworkers.

HB 3193 seeks to make permanent a fund in the Oregon Health Authority so that Oregon protects workers who face the most risks posed by the climate crisis and clearly defines qualifying disasters. Such disasters could include a drought, wildfire, earthquake, and other adverse weather events or public health crises (e.g. a pandemic). As extreme heat and wildfires become more common in Oregon, agricultural workers are forced to choose between working in dangerous conditions or losing a paycheck. Farmworkers are among the poorest workers in Oregon, and should not have to put their lives on the line or their health at risk in order to make ends meet and support their families.

We know the dangers of the climate crisis are not evenly distributed. Oregon has over 72,000 agricultural workers, many who are immigrants, Indigenous, or Latinx and low-income. Prioritizing relief to the members of our communities who are most impacted is key to developing an equitable response to climate disasters.

The hard work of Oregon farmworkers supports our economy and ensures families are fed across the state.

The Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund will provide stability and safety to farmworkers and **we strongly urge your support of HB 3193.**

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy, Innovation Law Lab