

**350  
PDX**



**CLIMATE JOBS PDX**



**NWJJP**  
NORTHWEST WORKERS JUSTICE PROJECT

**OUR CHILDREN  
oregon**



Oregon  
Environmental  
Council



**PROTECTING OREGON WORKERS FROM CLIMATE HAZARDS— [HCR 203](#) (2022)**

Climate change is threatening workers throughout Oregon.

Rapidly accelerating changes in our climate are causing devastating and deadly wildfires, ice storms, and extreme heat across Oregon. As a result, Oregon workers are increasingly at risk of illness and death on the job. The legislature must protect Oregon workers on the frontlines of this crisis, whose jobs must be done outside in the elements or in non-temperature controlled environments. This past summer, extreme heat killed at least three workers, including Sebastian Francisco Perez, who died alone while laying irrigation pipes at a farm in St. Paul. Heat exhaustion also increased the risk of injury and death for countless other workers working in warehouses, restaurants, construction sites, and agricultural sites.

*Placeholder for photo/graphic.*

Oregon OSHA is in the process of finalizing new statewide standards to protect workers from excessive heat and wildfire smoke, **but the agency does not have the authority to require work stoppages, even in extremely hazardous and life-threatening conditions.** We must do more to protect the lives and livelihoods of workers in Oregon from ever-worsening climate impacts and situations where workplace rules fall short.

**Workers should not have to choose between their health and paychecks.**

Frontline workers are disproportionately from low-income and/or immigrant communities. They are most likely to be impacted by the extreme weather and wildfire smoke on the job, and are the most vulnerable in their workplace for injuries, death, and retaliation and already suffer more health issues like asthma.

#### **HCR 203:**

- Defines climate-impacted worker and climate hazards.
- Specifies that employers have the duty to stop work:
  - in a Level 3 evacuation zone.
  - in extreme temperatures (ie. over 100F)
  - during extreme poor air quality
- Declares that workers in Oregon are suffering physically, mentally, and economically due to climate hazards. This lays the groundwork for future legislative action for compensation out of an established worker relief fund for those who could not work, due to climate hazard.

**Vote YES for protecting workers from climate**