



Washington State Tree Fruit Association

105 S. 18th Street, Suite 116 - Yakima, WA 98901 - 509-452-8555

To: Washington State Department of Labor and Industries via: Carmyn.Shute@lni.wa.gov

Date: September 26, 2022

Re: Ambient Heat Exposure Rule

I am writing on behalf of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association (WSTFA) regarding the Department of Labor and Industries (LNI) latest proposed Ambient Heat Exposure Rule language.

WSTFA represents the growers, packers, and marketers of apples, pears, cherries and other tree fruits in Washington State. As producers working outside to grow, harvest and pack fresh fruit, our members will be affected in many ways by the adoption of this rule. Heat, and particularly extreme heat, is a serious safety concern. Many temporary workers come from areas of extreme heat. Mandating a 14-day supervision period of newly assigned workers who are originating from locations of extreme heat in excess of the conditions they will be working is not necessary. We are pleased that the department is acknowledging this and working to consider a waiver or credit of some sort to allow the employee to work while have already been acclimatized. In the absence of specific language, we are unable to comment further.

We ask LNI to refer to WSTFA's previous comments submitted on August 15, 2022, and encourage their incorporation in subsequent drafts of the proposed rule.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ranie L. Haas
Director of Regulatory and Industry Affairs
Washington State Tree Fruit Association