

Chair Taylor, Members of the Committee

My name is Margaret Brown and I live in NE Portland and work in outer east county. I've worked in manufacturing for 9 years at the same plant. When I first started, I was making \$9.50 an hour, and now 9 years later I make 12.25 an hour. Right now, I'm currently working 6, 8 hour days per week, but I have worked longer hours before. I want to talk about the work in general, because when I'm scheduled for overtime I do believe that I should get paid a little bit extra when I work over 10 hours a day and over 40 hours a week because the pace of work and dangers I'm exposed to. In my case, I would only get \$6.12 more per overtime hour – which I don't feel like is a lot to ask.

I've done packaging for the bakery. We package muffins into trays and box them. The pace is pretty fast especially when we do smaller pieces because there are so many of them. We do the same thing for at least 8 hours, so that repeated motion gets more difficult. We must box up one box of 6 trays of muffins every 12 seconds. There's someone folding trays because the tray machine doesn't do it fast enough

It gets really cold in the wintertime, you have to wear thermals. And when it's hot you're dripping in sweat. There is no air conditioning or heating. There are several big re-vent ovens and one giant autobake ovens that release lots of heat. The autobake is constantly moving as it cooks, when there are problems with a machine we can't stop the line because the product will burn. That means workers have to do manually, what they did mechanically to keep the line going. When this happens it's stressful for the whole crew.

The work in general is dangerous. The floors get very slippery because we have to wash them with water. There was a girl once that was cleaning a machine and she got shocked very bad and had to go to the hospital. There was a loose wire that contacted her screwdriver. She was gone for a few months because her heart was effected and she had nerve damage.

The supervisors can be nice, the lead can get easily stressed out and sometimes can lose patience with workers. He's the person in charge and he tells everyone what they need to be doing to keep the line running. He moves people around to different positions. He yells at people when they don't do something fast enough. A lot of people that work there are from other countries, I'm a minority there. When he yells at people, workers can get upset.

Again, I wanted to share these stories with you because the work we do is different than what others are required to and working at such a fast pace with dangerous machines isn't something workers should have to do when they're tired and overworked and I feel that asking employers to pay a little extra when they schedule us over ten hours a day and more than 40 hours in a week might convince them to be a little more thoughtful about the hours they require of us.