

Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor-

I am writing in support of HB 2358. I was stunned to learn that farm workers are not entitled to overtime under our laws and that this had not been changed since 1938. No one should have to work overtime without being paid overtime, particularly seasonal workers whose wages are very low to begin with.

Our farm workers bring food to our tables. They are essential workers and yet it seems like we treat them like expendable workers. I see them in the fields around my house working from sun up to sundown no matter what the weather, no matter how cold, muddy, hot, humid it might be outside. They continued to work in those same conditions, as well as through forest fires filling the skies with smoke and the global pandemic shutting most everything down. They were still out there working so we could eat. They deserve to be compensated fairly for that. If we have to pay a little more for our food so that farmworkers can pay for food for their families, I'm okay with that and everyone who eats should be as well. How many of us would be willing to do what our farmworkers do for the same amount of money they earn?

These workers have always been under valued but not paying them overtime is absolutely ridiculous when they already make so little. If you truly think they don't deserve this, I would invite you to spend just one day doing the work that our farmworkers do. Please support these workers and their families.

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