

March 8, 2021

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham, and Grayber, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Gideon T. Yamada and I am a third-year student attending Portland State University. I am writing/testifying in support of HB 2358, farmworker overtime. This bill will guarantee overtime pay to agricultural workers after 40 hrs in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Oregon will join the other five states that pay agricultural workers some sort of overtime pay. Paying farmworkers overtime is very important to us because they are frontline workers putting themselves through work during these harsh climates to make a sort of living. Also, it's important to pay workers fairly for the work they're putting in. Due to many studies, as many agricultural workers are underpaid and excluded from basic labor standards, this bill will allow for economic stability. Allocating better wages to agricultural workers will increase consumer spending in local small businesses and in rural communities where agricultural work happens to be. I urge you to vote yes on HB 2358 to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are adequately paid for their labor.

Sincerely,  
Gideon T. Yamada