



March 8, 2021

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

Fair Shot For All Coalition supports HB 2358 to guarantee overtime pay to agricultural workers after 40 hours in a workweek.

We cannot build an economy that works for all of us until we acknowledge our nation's historic and ongoing dependence on coerced, unpaid or underpaid labor and the marginalization of immigrants, indigenous people, and enslaved people and their descendants. Excluding farmworkers from overtime pay is most certainly part of our racist history and ongoing systemic oppression.

Farmworkers have been called essential during the pandemic but we continue to undervalue them and their work. Farmworkers have been hit hard by COVID and wildfires - often provided little to no protections from outbreaks or smoke inhalation - and yet they still continue to show up, risking their health to provide food to Oregon families. It's time for us to recognize this critical work.

We need to remedy our economic policies and labor laws to ensure that our economic recovery honors the essential work that farmworkers provide to every Oregon household. HB 2358 Extends overtime benefits to farmworkers which have been available to the majority of other workers since the Federal Labor Standards Act of 1938. Oregon would join five other states (California, Washington, New York, Minnesota, Hawaii) with some sort of overtime pay for agricultural workers. The bill guarantees overtime pay to agricultural workers after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. This includes farmworkers who are paid by piece-rate or hourly.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2358 to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are adequately paid for their labor.

About Fair Shot - Our coalition is governed by a steering committee that includes: Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO), Basic Rights Oregon (BRO), Causa Oregon, Family Forward Oregon, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association (OEA), Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon (PPAO), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555, Unite Oregon, and Urban League of Portland. For a full list of our coalition members and priorities visit www.fairshotoregon.org.