



March 8, 2021

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Evelyn Guzman, Oregon Field Organizer, Forward Together Action
Re: Support of HB 2358

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Grayber and Members of the Committee,

My name is Evelyn Guzman and I am an Oregon Field Organizer with Forward Together Action. At Forward Together we believe that our communities should have access to the rights, recognition, and resources that our families need to thrive which is why we are in full support of HB 2358.

HB 2358, is one step forward to addressing the inequity that exists in Oregon by creating economic stability to a class of workers who have been excluded from basic labor standards such as minimum wage, collective bargaining rights, and overtime pay. Our farmworker community often endure some of the toughest working conditions as is, but 2020 showed us how often unequipped and exposed to harsh working conditions they are without the ability that many of us have to work from home. Farmworkers are the backbone of our society and they are the people who keep food on our table but they continue to be underpaid and exploited for their cheap labor, a practice that comes from racist legacy of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay to maintain social and economic control over them.

It is time for us to stand up for frontline workers who continue to show up for us. Farmworkers deserve to thrive which is why I urge you to support HB 2358 because in doing so you are supporting Agricultural workers who deserve to be paid fairly for their labor.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Guzman
On behalf of Forward Together Action