



Date: /2/5/2020
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Joanne Mina
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Joanne Mina, and I live in Deschutes county and I am writing on behalf of the multiples Latinx and farmworker families from Southern, Central, and Eastern Oregon as well as Portland metro area and the Mid Willamette Valley that have join the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice in virtual house meetings in Dec 2021 and Jan 2022 to discuss the needs and priorities of our communities.

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay, and the guarantee of a minimum wage.

Farmworker families wish to provide stability and wellbeing for their children and exploitative practices like exclusion from overtime means that farmworkers have to choose between overworking to provide that stability or being able to spend time with their children.

Among the concerns of farmworkers in Eastern Oregon are the inability to have sufficient money to pay for basic things such as heating during the winter months and the importance of getting a fair pay for their work during the growing season.

All workers including Farmworkers deserve labor rights, exclusion is shameful and Oregon can and must do better to address this type of regulation that causes racial, rural and other inequities. Exclusion from overtime pay requires farmworkers to work many hours without having time to do other things like engage civically in Oregon legislature hearings to advocate for themselves, one of the many forms of taxation without representation in this state. Overtime pay and labor rights should extend to all of Oregon's 86,389 estimated farmworkers.

I urge you to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential contribution and presence in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Joanne Mina
Statewide Bilingual Community Organizer
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice