

Submitter: Julie Titus

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime.

It is only because of historically racist employment policy that farms in Oregon are not required to pay their workers time and a half over 40 hours worked, like most every other industry. Farmworkers deserve equal treatment and the same quality of life as any other worker. They are doing important, hard, and dangerous work in one of the largest sectors of our state economy, and they are essential in feeding families across Oregon.

It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay. I expect you will hear from farmers who say this will be detrimental to their business. However, they have benefitted from underpaying these workers for decades, and we cannot continue to allow financial abuse of farmworkers just because it may impact someone's business. Business owners do not get to decide what rights their workers have, and are not so beneficial to our economy if they can only be successful in business at the expense of 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 labor.

Sincerely,  
Julie Titus