

Date: 2022/02/05

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Oshadhi

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Oshadhi, and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am writing as a concerned resident who recognizes the importance of the Farmworker Overtime Bill and its potential positive impact on the farmworker community in Oregon.

Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Similar to any other worker, farmworkers too deserve to have their dignity, labor rights, and respect acknowledged. The overtime pay bill was created to ensure that the employers do not overwork farmworkers and therefore passing this bill would help the farmworkers have better health conditions and a longer life. Moreover, the exclusion from overtime payment has made farmworkers work many hours and not have enough time to spend time with their families or do what they enjoy. With this bill, farmworkers would be able to have a quality life similar to everyone else who lives a better life because of them. This bill would benefit around 86,389 farmworkers in Oregon and make it possible for them to have a comfortable life with food on their table. However, given how urgent solving this matter is, I believe that the 5 years transition period is unnecessarily long. The racist exclusion of farmworkers from overtime payment that has been happening for decades, should be stopped as soon as possible.

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,

Oshadhi