

Submitter: Sarah Deumling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Date: 2-5-2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Your Name/Organization

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee. My name is Sarah Deumling, I live in rural Polk County and am writing both as an individual and as a member of 350 Salem OR

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. Ever since my childhood growing up on a farm in Clackamas County and picking berries and beans in farm fields during the summers I have wondered why agricultural workers are not treated the same as other workers. We kids did that because we wanted spending money or our parents wanted us to contribute for school clothing, etc. We were not supporting a family on farm worker wages. The adult farm workers do the work no one else wants to do but which is of the utmost importance to almost every person in this country. They should absolutely be paid a good living wage, including overtime, so they can afford the food they harvest and pack - so they can afford the necessities of life for a family. Much of the farm work is hard physical work, sometimes in unpleasant conditions - no air-conditioned office, no heat at the turn of a knob - and decades of this work takes a toll on ones body.

Please consider passing this long overdue legislation in this session with the insistence that it be enacted immediately. This will affect the bottom line of some farmers with whom I have sympathy but it illustrates an important problem with our pride in having such cheap food in this country compared to many other countries.