

Submitter: Juan Ugarte

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. 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. Yet farmworkers are denied the same overtime pay that other workers in Oregon receive.

If Oregon is serious about ending institutionalized racism, this work that needs to be done! The State continuing to rely on workers' cheap labor without overtime pay is tantamount to exploitation. I wholeheartedly believe that farmworkers are one of the last social groups left out of reach for progressive legislation. If the group encompassed other racial groups beyond Latinos, to a significant degree, this proposal would have garnered much more support by now.

A pivotal step in correcting the current feudal system is for farmworkers to receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

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,  
Juan Ugarte