



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

SUPPORT HB 4002—Oregon Agriculture Overtime

Testimony by Julie Arrington, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
House Committee on Business and Labor. February 8, 2022

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in SUPPORT of HB 4002**, which would require that farmworkers be paid overtime for their work.

Farmworkers play an integral role in our state and national food production. Tens of thousands of farmworkers in Oregon provide food security for Oregonians through the extreme heat, wildfire and drought conditions that now frequent the state.

Routinely working overtime exacerbates physical and psychological ailments that can lead to an increased risk of work-related health problems, injuries and mental illness. The exemption of farmworkers from the Fair Labor Standards Act is a racist legacy that prohibits agriculture workers, who are predominantly from Latin American and Indigenous families, from receiving overtime pay. The racial and economic injustices that farmworkers face are exacerbated by the climate crisis, making this a pressing environmental justice issue that cannot be ignored.

HB 4002 would ensure that farmworkers could not be asked to work excess hours without the appropriate compensation that is standard for other workers.. The demands on their time and health will increase as the climate crisis worsens, and they must be fairly compensated for their role in ensuring food production within Oregon.

We ask that you support HB 4002 in order to provide economic and environmental justice for agriculture workers in Oregon.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

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