

Submitter: Bonnie McKinlay
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Bonnie McKinlay
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime
Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber

I write to you supporting HB 4002 which would fairly compensate farmworkers for overtime work.

I support HB 4002 because it is a long overdue path to treating farmworkers in Oregon honorably for their necessary work in the survival of our state's people and economy.

At great personal costs, farmworkers provide goods that are essential to our communities. Their work is as necessary to our well-being as medical care. Farmworkers deserve respect for their labor—and a decent and equitable living that measures up to all Oregon workers.

In years before I began a public school teaching career, I was an agricultural worker in berry-picking, hazelnut harvesting and pickle processing. Although by current farmworking standards I was privileged, for my hard work I received low pay, long hours with no overtime and cold, numb fingers eager for the rising sun's warmth. These experiences have formed my solidarity and empathy for the economic plight of Oregon farmworkers.

I encourage you to guide the goals of HB 4002 to Oregon law.

Thank you for your work for Oregon's integrity, people, lands and waterways.
-Bonnie McKinlay