



Date: February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Cassie Wilson, Sunrise Rural Oregon

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Cassie Wilson and I am writing on behalf of Sunrise Rural Oregon. The Sunrise Movement is a youth movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process.

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.

As young people living in rural Oregon, we understand how vital farms and farmworkers are to our communities. Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. It was wrong to exclude them then, and is still wrong today. This is a historic injustice that you now have the chance to make right. Those who grow our food should not have to be overworked and underpaid to keep food on the table for their own families. They deserve the same rights as all other workers. With a majority of farmworkers being immigrants, this is a racial justice issue. Farmworkers are not second-class workers. They deserve to be treated humanely.

Additionally, farmworkers are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Oregon has experienced repeated climate change impacts in the form of excessive heat and wildfire smoke which farmworkers feel the direct impact from and will suffer the health consequences from. They deserve to be paid fairly for the work they do and the conditions they face.

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,

Cassie Wilson
Co-coordinator
Sunrise Rural Oregon