

Submitter: Emily Yates-Doerr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Emily Yates-Doerr, Associate Professor of Anthropology (title for identification purposes only)

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Emily Yates-Doerr. I live in Corvallis Oregon and I am an associate professor of anthropology (title for identification purposes only).

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.

I have carried out extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Guatemala, with many people who eventually come to work as farmworkers in the United States. The people I know are deserving of dignity, respect, and labor rights in the United States. Many have fled situations of violence brought about by US-political intervention into Central America. Many farmworkers have also fled situations of climate crisis caused by global warming that is not of their making. "Living wage" means just that—those who are not protected by a living wage face suffering or death. Being paid for overtime work is not a luxury, but a basic human right. Additionally, overtime pay allows farmworkers to spend time with their children, passing along skills related to farming and climate resilience that are increasingly valuable in the fight against global warming.

Oregon farmworkers are not second-class workers, and they deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely. Everyone deserves to live in a world where the people growing and caring for our food systems are not exploited. Caring for farmworkers through overtime pay is a way to build a better food system and, ultimately, care for us all.

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,

Emily Yates-Doerr

Associate Professor of Anthropology (title for identification purposes only)