

Submitter: Jess Nash
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Jessica Nash, Willamette University
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime,

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

My name is Jessica Nash, and I live in Salem, Oregon and/or I am writing on behalf
of the farmworkers in Oregon, who have been historically mistreated

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.

Without farm workers, society would be unimaginable, and the fact that they do not
receive the same respect and compensation as other workers in society is not right.
California offers one of the most progressive laws, putting into effect overtime pay for
farmers working more than 40 hours a week, implemented over a seven year
process. Oregon, as a typically more progressive state than California should be
doing better, and should choose a shorter timeline for overtime pay to be available for
farmworkers. Overworking and underpaying our farm workers will only lead to a
shortage of workers, which negatively affects the economy. There are negative
economic effects, and personal effects that these families feel. While they are feeding
tables across America, sometimes they are unable to afford to feed their own family
with a median salary of \$28,000 per year. This median salary is one of the lowest
across the country, and without proper compensation, workers will move to other
states where they are more appreciated, leaving Oregon farms empty. The passing
of these laws will create better lives for workers and their families, and keep jobs in
Oregon.

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,

Jessica Nash