

February 7, 2022

## Memorandum

VIA EMAIL ONLY

TO: Chair Holvey  
Vice-Chair Bonham  
Vice-Chair Grayber  
Members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee

FROM: Elliot Levin, PROTEC17 Research Director and Legislative Advocate

RE: Support for Farmworker Overtime

---

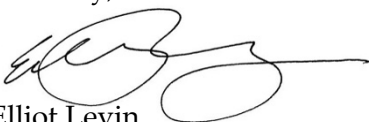
On behalf of the nearly 900 Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 (PROTEC17) represented employees of City of Portland, I write today in support of farmworker overtime. PROTEC17 represents a wide variety of professional and technical employees, including engineers, planners, information technology specialists, and technicians who live and work in the Portland area. Additionally, we represent approximately 8,000 public sector employees across Washington State.

Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. At the same time, these are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon, with a median annual income of \$28,000 far below the statewide average. We rely on these workers daily to put food on our families table, and to power the agricultural industry in this state.

Extending overtime pay protections to farmworkers will create better health and economic conditions and a longer life for farmworkers. Overtime exists not only to provide increased income to workers but also to discourage employers from overworking employees. As Oregon summer temperatures increase, over-work and long hours in outdoor working conditions will become a greater health burden on these workers. Extending overtime protections to farmworkers is a critical step towards protecting the health and welfare of some of our most vulnerable workers.

PROTEC17 is an organization dedicated to anti-racist principles, and we believe the end of the long-standing racist exclusion of farmworkers from overtime protections is a critical step into a better future. Thank you for your support in taking this important step.

Sincerely,



Elliot Levin  
Research Director and Legislative Advocate  
PROTEC17

EL:dc  
opeiu8