

Submitter: Hattie Lewis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Harriet Lewis

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime,

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

My name is Harriet Lewis, and I live in Salem, OR and I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. I urge you to support farm workers over time in the 2022 legislative session. This needs to be implemented as soon as possible, five years is too long of a wait. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employees regular rate of pay. Economically speaking, farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Oregon should join Washington and California in paying farm workers overtime or else they will take their abilities to where they are better compensated, leaving Oregon farms behind. From a standpoint of equality and justice, farm workers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights - these rights have been excluded from them and they are treated as second-class workers.

Once again, 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. Additionally, this legislation cannot wait five years, not only is the passage of this legislation morally significant, but is also essential to the Oregon economy.

Sincerely,
Harriet