

Monday, February 6th, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Petrona and I have lived in Washington county for the past 20 years. I am writing to you today in support of HB 4002, Farmworker Overtime Pay. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

This bill is personal to me because I have family who work or have worked in the fields. Mostly in nurseries. As a daughter of immigrant parents, who not only sacrificed their lives to get me to where I am today, it breaks my heart when I see my family members and community out in the horrific heat and cold seasons still working. Some of which end up doing overtime with no pay because they must make ends meet. Farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so. These community members make Oregon thrive! They are doing some of the heaviest work and yet to my surprise, do not get paid overtime like everyone else. It really is heartbreaking knowing that most of their life was spent working rather than being with their families. That was my reality growing up and it continues to be true to many other children in Oregon. It is time that unfortunately we will never get back with our loved ones. Farmworkers should be able to spend more time with their families or tend to other responsibilities, instead of spending most of their life at work.

Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely. They deserve more and we should be doing more to support our farmworkers and agriculture workers. It really should not be a question, but here I am today testifying for you to please think with your heart in this matter and continue to do the work to bring justice to these workers who make Oregon rich and beautiful.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized capital letter 'P' followed by a horizontal line that loops back under the letter.

Petrona Dominguez Francisco