

Submitter: Jon Wood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Jon Wood

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Jon Wood and I live in Portland.

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. Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely.

Overtime pay law was created to discourage employers from overworking employees. Before 1938, employers overworked workers even to the point of death. Extending overtime pay protections to farmworkers will create better health conditions and a longer life for farmworkers.

Overtime pay would give farmworkers more time outside of work. 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 deserve a living wage to pay for their living expenses. 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. Overtime pay would extend to Oregon's 86,389 farmworkers (OSU enumeration study). Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded.

Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely.

Sincerely,

Jon Wood  
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