

Submitter: Dean Sigler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Oregon's food production and distribution system is anchored by migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, yet these essential workers are excluded from overtime pay. I believe that farmworkers deserve to be treated the same as all other workers. Extending overtime pay for Oregon's farmworkers is necessary to improve their economic security and decrease food insecurity. Throughout the pandemic, catastrophic fires and hazardous air quality levels, farmworkers continued to work to support Oregon's multibillion dollar agricultural industry and keep our food systems afloat. Oregon is behind other states in providing protections and overtime pay to the essential migrant and seasonal workers that our food system depends on. We need to pass Farmworker Overtime so we can all emerge stronger. I lived on a farm as a child and worked on a few farms during summers when I taught. The work is hard and demanding. The workers make it possible for us to have the abundance we enjoy. They are worthy of compensation including overtime pay.