

Submitter: Linda Kelley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

I am writing as a concerned citizen and one who formerly worked in the natural foods industry for many years, instrumental in developing the markets for high quality organic food and the organic certification process.

It is past time to show the people who do the hard work of growing and harvesting our food the same respect as we offer our other workers. It was shocking to me that these workers, some of the hardest workers in the country, have been excluded from overtime since 1938. I was not aware of that though I worked in that arena.

Please pass this Farmworker Overtime Bill, and I encourage you to amend the timeline for implementation to 2 years from 5. This is ample time to roll out this change and with the extreme heat we are beginning to acknowledge as "normal" we must move quickly or lives will be lost needlessly. Thank you for your work in bringing this important bill forward.