

Submitter: Ellen Rifkin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

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.

I am writing to you today in support of Farmworker Overtime. Our labor standards policies are grounded in New Deal-era legislation that deliberately excluded domestic workers and farm labor, in order to get the votes of Southern legislators upholding Jim Crow. Wages and hours protections meant to exclude Black people when they were passed still rob people of color-- the overwhelming majority of farm workers-- from the labor compensation and protections that the rest of us enjoy.

It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay. 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,
Ellen Rifkin