



February 8, 2022

**Testimony of Leland Baxter-Neal, Director of Advocacy
On behalf of Latino Network
In Support of HB 4002
House Committee on Business and Labor**



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

Latino Network appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 4002 to provide farmworkers with overtime pay.

We urge this committee to pass a farmworker overtime policy that moves as quickly as possible to provide agricultural workers in the State of Oregon with time-and-a-half overtime pay when they work more than 40 hours in a workweek.

Latino Network is a culturally specific nonprofit serving Latinx youth and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Our organization provides transformative services to more than 10,000 Latinx youth, families, and community members in multiple areas including education, family stability, housing support, juvenile justice, legal navigation, and advocacy.

Farmworkers and their families are community members, program participants, and employees of Latino Network. They are our friends and family. We honor the work they do in Oregon's farms and fields so that we all may eat. We know the sacrifices farmworkers make to put food on their families' tables, and ours.

Farmworkers in Oregon have labored throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, through toxic wildfire smoke, and amidst deadly heat waves. Just this past summer, we and many others mourned the senseless and preventable death of Sebastian Francisco Perez, a farmworker who died the day after his 38th birthday working through extreme heat.

For too long, farmworkers in Oregon have been denied the basic rights that other workers have been afforded. **It is never the wrong time to do the right thing.** We cannot as a state continue to exclude farmworkers from earning a living wage. To do so forces agricultural workers to work long hours in pursuit of just compensation. And yet, **farmworkers are some of the lowest-paid workers in the state, with a median income of \$28,000.**

Farmworkers are not second-class workers. They deserve to earn an honest day's salary for an honest day's work, and to still have time to be with their families, help their kids with their homework, or rest and recover from the backbreaking work of field labor.

Latino Network urges this committee to vote yes on HB 4002, and to ensure that this policy provides farmworkers with overtime pay as soon as possible when they work for more than 40 hours in a workweek.

Thank you kindly for this opportunity,



Leland Baxter-Neal
Latino Network
Director of Advocacy