



February 4, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been creating affordable housing and providing asset-building opportunities for farmworkers for 34 years. Our work is necessary because of the shortage of affordable housing for farmworkers and the low wages that farmworkers receive for their work.

CASA of Oregon supports overtime pay for farmworkers. It is a moral obligation that farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

It is high time that we acknowledge the many examples of historical racism that have permeated and continue to permeate our American culture. Two groups that have been consistently excluded from benefitting from fair treatment are agricultural and domestic workers. Historically, these workers were primarily African-American. Today, most farm workers are immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean.

How is it that farm workers can be "essential" and yet they cannot even be on a par with other workers? Our communities cannot wait any longer to receive just compensation for their crucial work. 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,

Peter Hainley
Executive Director