

Submitter: Doris Cellarius

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.

The pandemic has had devastating impacts on for Oregon's farmworkers. Infection with Covid has added to the harm these families already endure because of long hours of work, exposure to dangerous pesticides, harsh weather conditions, and decreased access to healthcare. Throughout the pandemic, catastrophic fires, and dangerous levels of air quality, farmworkers continue to work and ensure that people have food available.

Farmworkers struggle to make ends meet and must be granted overtime pay, It is the least you can do. They deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded.

Overtime pay law was created to discourage employers from overworking employees. Before 1938, employers overworked workers even to the point of death. Exclusion from overtime pay requires farmworkers to work many hours without having time to do other things.

It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay. Farmworkers have been excluded from minimum wage protections and overtime pay through the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 for too long.

Act now to do this for the 86,240 farmworkers in Oregon that need our help. They are our friends, our neighbors, our community. Let's stand in solidarity with our friends and neighbors and speak out against racial and social injustices!

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,
Doris Cellarius