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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 8, 2022

HB 4002 - Support

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Interim Committee on Business and Labor

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Valderrama, and I am the State Representative for House District 47 which covers outer East Portland. I am writing in strong support of HB 4002.

Farmworkers have shown up to work day in and day out over the last three years. They have worked on the frontlines in spite of a global pandemic, stay at home directives, hazardous air quality caused by wildfires, and dangerous heat waves to ensure that grocery store shelves are stocked and families across Oregon are well fed. Pregnant mothers and children have shown up to work the fields in these conditions when schools were closed and lost wages could not be afforded.

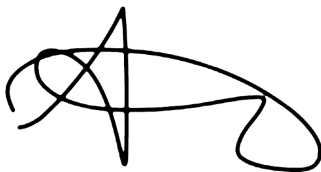
Oregon House District 47 is in Outer East Portland, which sits on the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas Bands of the Chinook and many other tribes who made their home along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Tribes from this ancestral territory are now part of the Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Warm Springs sovereign nations.

Like many across Oregon, I recognize the critical work that farmworkers do for our economy and communities. It's strenuous and dangerous labor in one of the largest sectors of our state economy, and they are essential in feeding families like mine and communities across Oregon.

Contrary to historical narratives rooted in racism, growing food *is* skilled labor and requires immense endurance. More than 40 hours of work in agriculture is also challenging to the human body. Ultimately, it affects farmworkers' physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being leading to harm. We must commit to keeping the lives of farmworkers safe and protected and their labor fairly compensated.

For far too long, farmworkers have been denied some of the most fundamental rights and fair working conditions that workers in almost every other sector receive. Farmworkers deserve equal treatment and the same quality of life and access to overtime pay as any other worker. I strongly urge the committee to support HB 4002 because farmworkers deserve humane, equal treatment for their labor, including overtime protections.

Andrea Valderrama

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrea Valderrama', with a stylized, cursive script.