

February 8, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Kevin Salvador Alejandro, PCUN

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Kevin Alejandro, I live in Salem, and I am writing on behalf of Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos (The Farmworker Service Center) in Woodburn, Oregon.

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.

Farmworkers are not second-class workers and they should not be treated as such. Currently, exclusion from overtime pay means that farmworkers find themselves having to work long hours without having time to do other things like, spend time with their families or tend to other responsibilities, simply to make ends meet. Farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table without having to sacrifice their health or time with their families. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely. Extending overtime pay protections to farmworkers will create better health conditions and a longer life for farmworkers while allowing them to have more time outside of 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,

Kevin Salvador Alejandro
Community Navigator
Farmworker Service Center
(Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos)