



Date: 02/08/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: **Latinos Unidos Siempre**

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Sandra Hernandez, and I live in Salem and/or I am writing on behalf of Latinos Unidos Siempre, a youth-of-color-led organization based in Salem since 1996.

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.

Many of our members and or their parents know the hard work of agricultural work. For years, youth have shared about the exploitation they or their parents encounter while working within the agricultural industry. For many youth, working to support their families is not an option, as their earned income is necessary for their family's survival. However, we have a huge problem in this country, and it is surrounding the exploitation of farmworkers, most of whom are first generation immigrants and Indigenous. Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

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 and make enough money to do so. With a decent, livable wage, farmworker parents will not be forced to work alongside their children.

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,

Sandra Hernandez

Director

Latinos Unidos Siempre