

Submitter: Miriam Vargas Corona

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.

Agriculture workers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded.

I live in the Willamette Valley, and farm workers are essential to the vitality of our local economy. Their labor makes it possible for vineyards, nurseries, dairies, and crop farms continue to make a profit despite the extreme weather conditions and the risk of getting infected by COVID-19 that agriculture workers endure. It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay.

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 farm workers to work many hours without having time to do other things.

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,  
Miriam Vargas Corona