

Submitter: Zoe Griffith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Zoe Griffith

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Zoe Griffith, and I am a farmer in Sisters, OR.

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. As a farmer I know this will impact agriculture as a whole in Oregon, but it is our responsibility to move our sector forward.

I speak not for myself but for the hundreds of thousands of people providing skilled and physically demanding work in Oregon's agricultural sector who have been excluded from minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since 1938 with the Labor Standards Act. With roots in the same racism and forced labor that built the U.S. economy, this exclusion needs to go.

As a farmer, I realize how difficult it is for farmers to make financial ends meet -- Oregon's farmers are not supported enough as it is. Paying overtime to their employees most likely won't be easy for many farm owners. With that being said, the economic shortcomings of our economic and food systems cannot be balanced on the backs of those who work the hardest and are paid the least. It is far past time to lift this burden and pull it out by the roots.

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.

Thank you for reading,

Zoe Griffith

Rainshadow Organics