

Submitter: Meredith Bell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

> Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

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> 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.

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> Farm workers deserve the same dignity, respect and labor rights that all other workers are afforded. For too long they have been denied the same basic rights that all other workers have been granted.

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> Overtime pay law was created to discourage employers from overworking employees, and to compensate workers for their extended labor. 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, like be with their families.

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> It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay.

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> 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.

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> Sincerely,

> Meredith Bell

> Portland, OR