

Submitter: Katie Swanson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

2/9/22

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

Dear House Committee on Business and Labor:

My name is Katie Swanson and I live in Klamath Falls, Oregon and am writing to you on behalf of myself and my farm, Sweet Union Farm.

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 have worked on farms and now own my own, and I can say that farm work is skilled labor. There is no reason it should be excluded from overtime pay. The reasons it still is are outdated and irrelevant. This will be difficult on farmers, especially since it's not their fault that our food system makes it difficult to pay fair wages, but this is a step that must be made if we are to build a better, stronger food system in Oregon.

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,

Katie Swanson
Owner/Operator
Sweet Union Farm