

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and members of the House Business and Labor committee.

My name is Quinn Lampkin and I live in Portland Oregon and/or I am writing on behalf of myself, a small business owner with vested interest in health and nutrition.

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.

Farm worker overtime pay is vital to our society because the community benefits. Paying and treating workers fairly translates to less stressful and more decent living standards for the workers. These benefits reverberate throughout the community. With overtime pay, farmworkers would have more money to spend at local stores, which in turn boosts businesses in the community, spurring growth in small towns, downtown areas, and commercial strips in rural areas of the state.

In addition Better pay would make workers easier to attract and easier to retain. Lower turnover also means lower training costs and more experienced workers.

I support farming simply because that's where food comes from. But when you support farming you support both the Farmer and the Farm worker. Some of the exemptions that exclude farmers from overtime labor laws were created during the unfair, racist Jim Crow era. It is long past time to remove these archaic exceptions and apply the same labor laws to farm workers as to other workers.

The rationale for including farm workers in the same overtime pay rules as other workers is simple: People who work long, hard hours should be paid fairly. There can no longer be a reason that a different set of standards should apply for farm workers than for other workers.

In conclusion I urge you to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative session to ensure farm workers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Sincerely,

Quinn Lampkin

Exercise Science Expert

Peak Condition