



February 8th, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: **Oregon Farmers Markets Association**
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

Thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Anna Springer and on top of being a farm manager in Boring, I am also the President of the Oregon Farmers Markets Association, representing nearly 95% of farmers markets across the state.

I am writing to you today both personally as a farm worker and in my role representing small businesses, farmers, and food system workers in our state's farmers markets. We are in strong 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.

We know that our markets, which represent over 63 million dollars worth of sales (2019) rely on farmworkers to be successful. Just like the many other workers that get food to our markets, they deserve to be paid fairly for their work. As any farmers market worker could tell you, many parts of the food system are seasonal- not just farmwork. And yet farmworkers bear the brunt of the unjust argument that somehow the seasonality of produce means their working conditions and pay should not have to be subjected to the same standards as the rest of our laborforce. In a state that is known for its year-round bounty and is often the poster child for the local foods movement (which contributes hugely to our tourism sector) farmworkers deserve to share in the bounty. They bring food to our tables and they should be able to easily afford to bring food to their own.

Supporting farmworkers with a fair and living wage is the absolute minimum we can do for folks who do so much to support our shared community. Every hand that works to bring food to our markets deserves fair pay and protections, and it is an issue that cannot wait.

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,
Anna Springer
Oregon Farmers Markets Association President
Lil Starts Farm Manager