

Submitter: Omar Alvarado

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

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

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.

I am a first generation Mexican American in Oregon.

My family comes from a range of different types of farmwork. I understand the economical, health, and workforce justice difficulties that comes with this type of skilled and rigorous work.

I also come from a background of business development in the Willamette Valley, thus i understand the practical difficulties that comes with this big of an economic and workforce change in one's business.

I understand both sides of the argument.

In this case, the community of farmworkers deems to have proven that overtime pay after 40 hours is of dire necessity for this vital organ of the American workforce.

I would agree that farmworkers deserve this overtime pay that is granted to almost all of America's workforce because these folks ARE America's workforce.

Although the farm owners do contribute to their economy as a business, the farmworkers contribute more. They are the workforce that whom without these farmowners would not to maintain their business running. Farmworkers have demonstrated they the most essential of workforces despite being in a pandemic, they continued to show up to work. If some lost jobs at other places, they ended up doing farmwork instead, rather than being jobless.

The latino community is also one of the fastest growing populations that are contributing to our economy. Starting more businesses and spending more money into our local economy.

This helps all of Oregon, keep its economic wheels turning.

By this logic, the farmworkers have demonstrated that they have earned this overtime after decades of unjust treatment and wages.

As a business owner I understand how difficult it is to have to change business and financial plans when a new change in the industry happens.

However, it is common fact that in business and the economics, things change. Now more than ever, if this pandemic has taught us anything, business models and strategies are changing faster than ever.

Thus is the cost of doing business.

What is being proposed in the fund to help out the businesses to make this change and the phase out plan is very feasible and actually generous to these businesses considering other states have not been as generous.

I urge you Committee members of business and labor to support farmworker overtime pay after 40 hours thank you.

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,

Omar Alvarado