

Submitter: Sean Patrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/9/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Sean Patrick

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Sean Patrick and I live in Portland, Oregon.

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.

For far too long, farmworkers have been denied the right to overtime. This is unconscionable when agricultural work is as difficult and time-intensive as it is. We should be treating farmworkers the same as any other human being in this county.

I understand that many small agricultural businesses stand at the brink of bankruptcy. I am not deaf to this serious concern, and I would like to see assistance paid to small companies to assist them in the transition toward fair treatment for farmworkers.

However, the reality is that most agricultural producers are large agribusinesses that have built this loophole in labor law into their business plans. We can certainly assist our small farmers without sacrificing the human dignity of the workers that grow our food for us.

Farmworkers are already some of the lowest-paid people in our country, we owe it to them to ensure they can pursue a high quality-of-life and can afford the necessities they need to keep their families healthy. If they are working long hours, they need to be paid for that time in the same way the rest of us are.

Please pass the farmworker overtime bill in the 2022 Legislative Session. We need to pay them for their important contributions to our society.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick