

Date: 2/9/22

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: **Leslie Kochan, on behalf of Climate Jobs PDX**

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Leslie Kochan and I live in Portland. I am writing on behalf of Climate Jobs PDX, a committee of Portland Jobs with Justice.

I am writing to you today to urge you to support overtime pay for Oregon farmworkers. It's egregious that farmworkers have historically been denied a right that other workers have been afforded since 1938. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

Farmworkers are among Oregon's most vulnerable and essential workers. They face health threats from pesticides, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, physically demanding work duties, and long work hours. Their work provides the most basic of needs for all other Oregonians – the food we put on our tables. Yet they often struggle to put food on their own tables, rent decent housing, support extended family and meet other economic needs due to low wages, intermittent work, and lack of overtime pay.

Please support fairness and equity for Oregon's farmworkers by supporting overtime pay for these most essential workers during the 2022 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kochan

Volunteer and leader

on behalf of Climate Jobs PDX