

Submitter: Jaime Carleton
On Behalf Of: Community Alliance of Tenants
Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime
Measure: HB4002

Support HB 4002A Farm Worker Overtime
Jaime Carleton Policy, Community Alliance of Tenants

February 23, 2022

Co-chairs Taylor and Holvey and members of the joint committee on Farm Workers Overtime

My name is Jaime Carleton and I am on the Policy Committee at Community Alliance of Tenants,

Oregon's only statewide tenant advocacy organization.

We believe in equity and Social Justice.

and we are in support HB 4002A. which would fairly compensate farmworkers for overtime work.

Our tenant leaders from around the state endorsed HB 4002A in support of Farmworker overtime. Our CAT Board members and constituents ask that you also support HB 4002A.

Without fair wages workers cannot afford rising housing costs leading to extreme housing instability in many of our farm communities.

Excluding farmworkers from overtime pay is an injustice and is based in our racist history as a state.

Farmworkers work is essential and necessary to our well-being putting food on our Oregon families tables.

Farmworkers currently receive low pay for long hours with no overtime. I know firsthand how hard Farmwork is. When I first moved to Oregon in 1979 I worked long hard hours in the hot fields and received low pay with no overtime.

I lived in poverty and under terrible housing conditions because of the low wages I received with no overtime for my hard work. And I needed to feed my children. It was hard living on my low wage without overtime.

Farmworkers deserve respect for their labor and deserve overtime like every other worker in Oregon.

Every Oregonian deserves equal pay. Overtime for farm workers is inevitable, whether through rulemaking or lawsuits. The only question is whether the legislature will provide certainty, a clear timeline, and tax credits -- and voice clear support for Oregon workers. We urge you to support HB 4002A.

Thank-You for this opportunity to testify.

Jaime Ann Carleton Policy, Community Alliance of Tenants