

Submitter: Susan Palmiter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime

Measure: HB4002

Co-Chairs Taylor and Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime,

My name is Susan Palmiter, and I live in Portland.

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay LIKE ANY OTHER worker after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. I am often reminded that the food on my table is only possible because of those who work on farms, often at low wages and increasingly difficult conditions. Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Overtime pay law was created to discourage employers from overworking employees. We know this is a plain and simple equity issue. Farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so.

I urge you to vote Yes on HB 4002 to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Thank you.

Susan Palmiter