

Submitter: Amanda Sager
On Behalf Of: Southern Oregon Central Labor Chapter
Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime
Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/24/22

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime
From: Your Name/Organization
Re: Support for HB 4002-Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Amanda Sager, I live in Ashland, OR, and I am writing on behalf of the Southern Oregon Central Labor Chapter. We represent over 10,000 union members in Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties, and we stand in solidarity with neighbors, friends, and family who are fighting for their rights to recognized by the state.

We are in support of farmworker overtime. We believe that farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Not only is this the dignity that each and every one of these workers deserve, but it's time to right the wrongs of the archaic and racist Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

These workers put food on our tables before, during, and after this pandemic. They are working in hazardous conditions and barely making ends meet despite the backbreaking and grueling hours of work. Overtime is to discourage the employer from exploiting labor, and our farmworkers need this protection now more than ever. As union members, we often negotiate for more penalties than state's law, because it helps provides a compensation for when we don't have a work/life balance, when we can't be there for family. These workers are owed that same respect.

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.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sager
Chair
Southern Oregon Central Labor Chapter