

Vote YES on HB 2358, the Farmworker Overtime Bill

Dear Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2358, which would ensure that farmworkers are fairly compensated for their overtime work.

During this pandemic year, we have seen that farmworkers are one of the most essential groups in Oregon. This year these frontline workers have continued to show up for work despite the pandemic, deadly wildfire smoke, extreme heat and the recent ice storm.

In spite of the essential nature of their work, farmworkers only earn an average of \$15,000 to \$17,499. In addition, most don't have healthcare coverage through their employer. As a result, migrant and seasonal farmworkers experience higher rates of health problems such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease than most other Oregonians.

Worst of all, many are cheated of overtime pay. This is the worst kind of exploitation. Oregonians are better than this. Let's join our neighbor states to the north and south in ensuring that our essential farm workers—who are the backbone of our multi-billion dollar agricultural industry and who keep our grocery aisles filled—are treated with dignity, fairness and respect.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2358.

Sincerely,

Nadene LeCheminant
Salem, Oregon 97302