

March 8th, 2021

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

My name is Alejandra Lilley, and I am with the Oregon AFSCME. As a fourth-generation Oregonian, whose family has worked in the agricultural industry, I know it is imperative to ensure that the basic labor rights of our industry workers are protected.

I am writing testimony in support of HB2358, farmworker overtime.

HB 2358 catches Oregon up to speed with 5 other states taking charge to securing hard earned overtime pay for our agriculture workers. The current laws do not protect an agricultural worker's right to receive time and half for work beyond their 40-hour work week. HB 2358 would guarantee the overtime benefits that have been made available to a majority of hardworking Americans since the Federal Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Farmworkers provide a vital service for Oregonians. In 2020 alone, these front-line workers faced the concurrent, historic crisis's, including a pandemic, wildfires, and more recently, a devastating winter storm. Our agricultural workers complete physically demanding work for salaries that are often below \$25,000, according to the National Agricultural Workers Survey. Despite these immense challenges, our farmworkers put their lives on the line to provide for our community.

Oregon's agriculture industry is a multi-billion-dollar operation, and it is beyond time for the workers to receive adequate compensation for their labor. Additionally, HB2358 would uplift a large community of workers whose right to basic labor rights such as minimum wage, collective bargaining rights and overtime—have been denied.

I urge you stand for our farmworkers and vote yes on HB2358.

Sincerely,
Alejandra Lilley, Organizer-in-Training
Oregon AFSCME