

**Hearing on HB 2358  
March 8, 2021**

**Kevin S. Alejandre  
Written Testimony in Support of HB 2358**

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

As a working resident of Oregon who both works for agricultural workers and comes from a family of agricultural workers, I am writing in support of House Bill 2358. I believe any agricultural worker who works over 40 hours in one workweek should be compensated for their excess labor through overtime pay.

Agricultural workers often experience heightened economic precarity when compared to the general U.S. working population. This precarity is often induced or exacerbated by the fact that agricultural workers do not always experience the same labor protections and rights as non-agricultural workers in the United States. Overtime pay is one major example. As expressed by numerous scholars such as Dr. Seth M. Holmes, Dr. Lynn Stephen, Dr. Ronald L. Mize, Dr. Alicia C.S. Swords, Dr. Mario Jimenez Sifuentez, Dr. Julie C. Keller, Dr. Abigail Leslie Andrews, and other researchers who have studied agricultural workers in the United States, agricultural workers are commonly overworked and underpaid.

We have a beautiful and vibrant community of agricultural workers in Oregon. They and their families make up a significant portion of our economy and society. They and their families are active producers and consumers who continuously invigorate our state through their cultural, social, and economic contributions. Plainly put, agricultural workers help keep our state running and thriving. I believe they should be acknowledged for this and paid for accordingly. If they work more than 40 hours in one workweek, they should be treated just like most non-agricultural workers who work more than 40 hours in one workweek. Fairly compensating them for their excess labor through overtime pay would help address their economic precarity while simultaneously showing them that we, as Oregonians, value their many contributions in our state.

Therefore, I urge you to support House Bill 2358. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Alejandre