

March 8, 2021

To: Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Grayber and Bonham, and members of the Committee on Business and Labor

Re: HB 2358 Farmworker Overtime

Dear committee members,

My name is Cecilia Poblete and I am writing in support of House Bill 2358.

As a Spanish GED Tutoring Worker (2003), Migrant Family Programs in Schools (2006-2008), Bilingual Teacher Aide (Substitute) at Silverton and Salem Schools (2010-2017) and in the present as Organizer (2020-2021) and with the closeness that my role empowers me, I have received many testimonies from farm workers where they express their discontent and discouragement, due to non-payment of their overtime, minimum wage, lack of care of children, workplace and sexual harassment, safety conditions regarding pesticides, unforeseen work accidents.

We have to continue advocating for the rights of farmworkers so they can achieve a decent work setting. It is not just a concept, it is something real and important. Safety, union recognition, better wages and working conditions for our farmworkers are needed now more than ever.

I give my testimony of my life and work experience that has been closely related to agricultural workers and Latinos in general by supporting HB 2358 because I know it will change their lives to have a better pay. We also need to advocate for greater social justice and give farmworkers better protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

CECILIA POBLETE