

March 8, 2021

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,
My name is Estephan Campisi, I'm an educator paraprofessional in Portland. I am writing in support of HB 2358, farmworker overtime.

HB 2358 guarantees overtime pay to agricultural workers after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. This includes farmworkers who are paid by piece-rate or hourly. Five other states already have some sort of overtime pay for agricultural workers, and it's time for overtime benefits to be extended to farmworkers just as they have for the majority of other workers since the Federal Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Throughout this pandemic, frontline workers have shown up day after day in dangerous conditions. Not only COVID-19, but also wildfires and the recent winter storm. They are underpaid, earning as low as \$15,000 a year, but represent a critical part of our supply chain, and without them we would surely starve. Oregon has a multi-billion dollar agricultural industry, and it is only fair and just for the agriculture workers to have a larger share. In addition, better wages will stimulate local economies which desperately need the help after the devastation of the pandemic.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2538 to ensure farm workers in Oregon are adequately paid for their labor.

Sincerely,
Estephan Campisi