



March 9, 2021

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

My name is Zaira Sanchez, and I am with the UFW Foundation. The UFW Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides critically needed resources and engages farmworkers in advocacy efforts around systemic change to break the cycle of poverty. Since September 2020, the UFW Foundation has distributed over 80,000 masks and know your rights labor information to 20,000 farm workers and provided over \$5 million in financial assistance to 10,000 farm workers in the Pacific Northwest through its "Essential Farm Worker Project." I am writing in support of HB 2358, farmworker overtime.

Since 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act used race as the basis for exempting farm workers from overtime pay. This exemption has denied farm workers equal health and safety protections, despite working in such a dangerous industry. Currently, farm workers are working on unequal terms. They continue to work long hours in extremely hot and cold temperatures, are exposed to harmful pesticides, chemicals, smoke, and even operate hazardous machinery and equipment, all while in the middle of a pandemic. Without the labor of our farm workers, our nation would go hungry.

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. It is time for Oregon to join the historic change made in five other states. It is critical that we eliminate the exclusion of any agricultural workers from receiving the basic right to overtime pay that they deserve.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2358 to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are adequately paid for their labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zaira Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Zaira Sanchez*  
*Emergency Relief Coordinator*  
*UFW Foundation*