



March 29, 2021

To Members of the Oregon House Committee on Business and Labor,

Farm workers in Central Oregon are the backbone of our agricultural industry and the exclusion of farm workers from the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 perpetuates racism and places a burden that should not be placed on essential workers.

Latino Community Association has served farmworkers across Central Oregon throughout the pandemic. We have distributed food boxes, hand sanitizer and facemasks to farmworkers that many times had soiled and worn out masks. During our fire season, farmworkers in Central Oregon were exposed to hazardous conditions. We had many days with an air quality index of over 600 particulates.

Many farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Central Oregon. The Latino Community Association has opened up our Immigrant Family Relief Fund once again this week to assist members of our communities that have been excluded from federal stimulus aid and unemployment, which includes many of our immigrant farm workers.

We invite you to join us in solidarity for farm worker justice by using your power to change the way farm workers are treated and compensated. Excluding farm workers from overtime pay was wrong in 1938 and it is still wrong today. Extending overtime pay for farm workers in Oregon is necessary to improve their economic security. This is one concrete step lawmakers can take to improve their working and living conditions.

In a year filled with a respiratory pandemic, catastrophic fires, and hazardous air quality, farm workers continue to show up to work and ensure we have food and other raw materials available to meet our basic needs. **It is time for Oregon to demonstrate our commitment to economic security for all of our workers by extending overtime pay to farmworkers through HB 2358.**

Latino Community Association supports Oregon's agricultural industry and its source of success: Our farmworkers! We encourage you to vote yes on HB2358 and guarantee overtime pay to hourly and piece-rate farm workers because the time for justice is now.

Sincerely,

Brad Porterfield  
Executive Director

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