



NORTHWEST CENTER FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

March 29, 2021

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

On behalf of the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), I am writing in support of HB 2358. HB 2358 guarantees overtime (OT) pay to agricultural workers after 40 hours in a workweek and ends the racist exclusion of farmworkers from the Federal Labor Standards Act.

NCAP values equity within our organization and in the work we do to protect human and environmental health from the impacts of pesticide use. We seek to understand and address historical and current patterns of oppression and racism within our organization and we expect the Oregon government to do the same. HB 2358 is long overdue based on the racist legacy of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay to maintain social and economic control.

In order to address and overcome environmental injustices, we must act in solidarity. Simply stating that this bill will disadvantage workers, veers away from the root problems of racial justice, self-determination and about affording farmworkers the same rights as other workers in our communities.

NCAP recognizes farmworkers as essential and deserving of overtime pay. According to Oregon Health Authority, there are an estimated 174,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and related family members, that contribute to Oregon's multi-billion dollar agricultural industry. By passing HB 2358, we will create economic stability and advance racial equity to a class of workers who have been excluded from basic labor standards such as minimum wage, collective bargaining rights, and OT pay for too long.

Thank you for voting yes on HB 2358 to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are adequately paid for their labor.

Sincerely,

Dominica Navarro
Healthy People & Communities Program Manager