

March 29, 2021

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

My name is Maria Jesus Torres, I live in Salem, Oregon and I've been a farmworker for over 35 years, mostly working in canneries and picking fruits and vegetables. I am writing in support of HB 2358, farmworker overtime.

I am mother of five children, all of which are grown up now. It was very difficult to raise my children while making minimum wage (sometimes even less), working in agriculture. I had to make a lot of sacrifices along the way, including not eating sometimes so my children could. There were many winter days where I had to leave the heater off because we could not afford an expensive gas bill. I am now 59 years old. I dream of a day where being a farmworker can be a valued job just like any other job.

You can help me and my peers by voting in favor of HB 2358.

Thank you,  
Maria Jesus Torres