

Tomas Bartolo  
Woodburn OR,  
2/23/2021

Hello Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith.

My name is Tomas Barotlo and I am from Woodburn, which is in District 5. I am here today to testify in support of HB 2358, HB 2819, and continuing to invest in the Oregon Worker Relief Fund, which are all included as priority items in *The People's Budget*.

Fully funding the Oregon Worker Relief Fund would provide financial support directly to Oregonians who have lost their jobs yet are ineligible for Unemployment Insurance and federal stimulus relief due to their immigration status, and now face hunger, homelessness, and economic hardship.

HB 2358 would guarantee overtime pay to piece rate and hourly farm workers in Oregon. Farmworkers have shown up to work every day through the pandemic, wildfires, and winter storms to perform one of the most physically demanding and exhausting jobs one can do. HB 2358 would extend the same access to overtime pay as other workers, and give farmworkers needed and deserved income.

My family and members of my community who are farmworkers have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19, by not being able to work for weeks or months. It has been very difficult to see them worried about not having enough income to pay rent, buy food or provide for the family. Many families do not have access to economic stimulus. Thousands of frontline workers who perform essential work did not receive any type of financial assistance due to their immigration status. Receiving the Oregon Worker Relief Fund was a lifesaver for many families in need.

I also ask you to support HB 2819 because all workers no matter their place of origin should be able to earn enough to care for their families. HB 2819 allows all income-eligible workers in Oregon to claim the state's EITC, regardless of how they file their taxes.

I believe that Oregon's economic recovery should help those who were hurt most by COVID-19 and our corresponding recession: primarily Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Investments that are rooted in racial, gender, and economic justice are what this moment calls for. Now is not the time for Oregon to save money or cut budgets.

Thank you,

Tomas Bartolo