

Submitter: Cary Pinard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime.

Of course farmworkers deserve equal treatment and the same quality of life as any other worker. They are doing important, hard, and dangerous work in one of the largest sectors of our state economy, and they are essential in feeding families across Oregon. Yet farmworkers are denied the same overtime pay that other workers in Oregon receive. It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay.

Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. And yes, prices for products may have to change to accommodate the farmer's increased costs. Any temporary disruption while 'the system' works out how to accommodate this change is not (and never will be) grounds for continuing to deny equal treatment to the hardworking, sincere people who provide our food.

I urge you to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Sincerely,
Cary Pinard