

Submitter: Joel Glick

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.

There is a long, sad history as to why farmworkers in the United States have been denied many of the rights enjoyed by other working people. Back in the 1930's, when the National Relations Act, Social Security Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act were enacted by Congress and signed by President Roosevelt, farmworkers were specifically excluded, due to the fact that farmworkers, like domestic workers who were also excluded, to the fact that farmworkers were overwhelmingly non-white. Farmworkers and domestic workers were mostly Black, Latino and Filipino. Fast forward almost 90 years. Today, agricultural and domestic workers are still mostly non-white, and they are still denied the same labor rights and protections that other workers enjoy.

Every time reforms have been passed that improves the lives of working people. including worker's compensation, health and safety legislation, abolishment of child labor, right to collective bargaining and Social Security, employers have claimed that if they had to pay for these improvements, they would go out of business. But that has never happened. And it will not happen when farm and ranch owners are required to grant their employees the same benefits that other employees have been granted for going on 100 years now.

I urge you to pass legislation ensuring that farmworkers receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. 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,  
Joel Glick