

2/06/22

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

My name is Mazie Drummond, and I am a high school climate justice with Sunrise PDX. I am writing in support of farmworker overtime.

HB 4002 establishes crucial overtime pay for farm workers. I currently work as the labor liaison for Sunrise PDX, which focuses on climate justice advocacy. Allowing farm workers overtime is a crucial intersection between labor and climate justice. To truly reach equity in our state, we need to make sure that those doing essential work are treated with respect and kindness. We shouldn't have to justify that people should be compensated for the work that they do. This summer we saw life threatening heat, and as we continue extractive and harmful climate practices, the situation is only going to get worse. Those on the frontlines like farm workers are hit first and foremost by the climate crisis, and coupled with a pandemic these workers are feeling the utmost effects of what happens when injustices are built into the functions of our systems. Excluding farmworkers from the FLSA is one of those injustices, along with countless others that farm workers may face on a daily basis. Farm work literally sustains our entire state, but besides the heroic work that these workers do, they are human beings who deserve to have their needs met.

As a state, I encourage you to take a stand for labor justice by passing Farmworker Overtime.

Thank you so much,

Mazie Drummond
Labor Liaison
Sunrise PDX