

Date: February 6th, 2022
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Rey Takahashi
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Rey Takahashi and I am a student attending Willamette University in Salem. I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. I learned about this bill via a class I am currently taking, and this bill is important to me as someone interested in racial justice. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

Farmworkers are nowhere near second-class workers and deserve the same rights and humane treatment as the rest of workers. Being excluded from overtime pay prevents farmworkers from having the flexibility to spend time with their family, taking care of other responsibilities, or simply enjoying more time outside of work.

I am in support of farmworker overtime, however, the 5 year transition period is too long and unacceptable. Farmworkers have been excluded from overtime pay for far too long. As one of Oregon's lowest paid jobs, with a median income of only \$28,000 a year, they deserve the pay to put food on the table as soon as possible.

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,

Rey Takahashi