

Submitter: Col Lockard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

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

Hello! My name is Col Lockard, and I live in Salem, OR. I am a student at Willamette University.

I am writing because the labor of farmworkers allows me to eat. I am concerned that they are not paid overtime (one-and-a-half times the employee's standard rate of pay) for the arduous work they put in that surpasses 40 hours a week.

Farm workers provide a vital service to Oregon. It is through their time and effort that we have access to fresh food. It is high time they were given the same compensation so many of us already enjoy. By being excluded from overtime pay, economic necessity means farm workers are pressured to work in unsafe conditions (such as in extreme heat or wildfire smoke) and for long periods of time (at the expense of their health and relationships). HB 4002 alleviates these problems by giving farm workers the overtime pay they so deserve.

While I am all for the bill's intent to provide overtime for farm workers, the timeline is too long. Farm workers should have had overtime pay 84 years ago, in 1938, when the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed... Why will it take five more years of extreme weather and undue stress for farm workers to receive the standard overtime pay beginning after 40 hours of labor?

I strongly encourage you to pass HB 4002 and ensure Oregon farm workers get paid what they rightfully should. I also urge you to ensure this legislation is enacted as soon as possible, earlier than the five years suggested in the bill.

Thank you,
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