

Submitter: Margot Lavoie

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.

Here in Oregon we are so lucky to have an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as wonderful dairy products and humanely raised livestock - all available for us to enjoy in no small part to the hard work of our incredible farmworkers. We need to remember that those delicious marionberries, that crisp head of lettuce, that tender steak on our table is the result of great effort on the part of many people - including, and most especially, our dedicated farmworkers. When they work overtime they deserve to be paid accordingly - it is the least we can do for them - both to show our respect for the immense contribution they make to our quality of life and also because it is the simply right thing to do.

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. Please support and pass this very important legislation.

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,  
Margot Lavoie