



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 4002 FARMWORKER OVERTIME

To: House Labor and Business Committee
From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
Date: February 2nd, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4002. UFCW Local 555 is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon, representing workers from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, and healthcare. We are a diverse group of workers who take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

Farmworkers are essential workers who have continued to show up for work despite facing a respiratory pandemic, wildfires, a winter storm, and deadly heat waves. 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. They deserve to be compensated fairly for their time.

Agricultural work is recognized as the occupation most likely to have mandatory overtime. Farmworkers commonly perform up to 16 hours of work per day. Routinely working long hours contributes to fatigue and sleep issues, and the onset/progression of heart disease; stroke; diabetes; depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation; as well as increased risk of work-related injury. We must afford farmworkers the same rights as other workers in Oregon.

HB 4002 creates economic stability for a class of workers who have historically been excluded from basic labor standards such as minimum wage, collective bargaining rights, and overtime pay. With better wages, there will be an increase in consumer spending, especially in local businesses and rural communities and better health outcomes and a longer life for farmworkers.

Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. We urge you to end the long-standing racist exclusion of farmworkers from overtime protections and vote Yes on HB 4002.

Sincerely,

Madison Walters
Political Liaison
UFCW Local 555

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

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