

Submitter: Kelsey Baker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Kelsey Baker

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Kelsey Baker, and I live in Portland, OR. I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. 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 deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. They have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers play a critical role in our society and economy, and deserve protections in the work they do to support all of us.

Farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. They deserve a living wage to pay for their living expenses. Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so. Overtime pay would extend to Oregon's 86,389 farmworkers (OSU enumeration study).

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,

Kelsey Baker  
Resident of Portland, OR