

Date: February 7, 2022
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Æ Hillenburg
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime,

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

My name is Æ Hillenburg, and I live in Salem and I am writing on behalf of students at Willamette University unaware of this pressing issue.

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime, however I remain neutral on this bill. 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 some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Farmworkers are *people* first who 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 should be able to spend more time with their families or tend to other responsibilities, instead of spending most of their life at work.

This bill will improve farmworkers' health, income, and quality of life, as well as the overall economy of Oregon. Overworked employees struggle with dangerous working conditions, chronic injury and illness, mental burnout, and death. However, I am neutral on this bill because farmworkers deserve *immediate compensation*; the current five-year plan is simply too long for workers who are suffering now.

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,

Æ Hillenburg
Willamette University