

Submitter: Sugar Todd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Sugar Todd

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Sugar Todd. I live in Albany, Oregon and I am writing on behalf of myself and my future as a farmer.

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.

I am currently a full-time student, studying Viticulture & Enology at OSU. I am actively seeking out real-world experience while in school so I will be better prepared to enter the wine industry when I graduate. Last summer I was offered a seasonal position to work for a vineyard management company. When the official job offer letter came in, I was shocked to learn that I would be expected to work 40+ hours a week without overtime pay. I am an incredibly curious and hardworking person, but I am not financially able to give my curiosity and desire for experience in exchange for insufficient pay.

I declined the opportunity to work a job I wanted based solely on this outdated, classist standard that agricultural workers somehow do not deserve overtime pay. Why do we actively choose to undervalue this work? Why are we denying farmworkers the labor rights afforded to other workers? Do I not deserve a living wage to help make your wine? Tell me why.

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,

Sugar Todd
Student & Future Farmer