

February 8, 2022

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Twila Jacobsen and I live in Eugene. I am writing on behalf of myself and the SEIU 503 Climate Justice Committee.

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. As a woman who grew up on a farm, I know this will impact agriculture in Oregon, but it is our responsibility as consumers, workers, and union members to support moving this sector into a more just system.

Institutional racism and sexism are at the core of why farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. During the heat dome of last summer and throughout the pandemic, farmworkers have been forced to sacrifice their health, even to the point of death. Extending overtime pay protections to farmworkers will create better health conditions and a longer life for farmworkers.

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,

Twila Jacobsen, co-chair

SEIU503 Climate Justice Committee