

Submitter: Rebecca Stone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Rebecca Stone

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Rebecca Stone, and I live in Portland. I am writing on behalf of myself. I work on a CSA vegetable farm just outside of Portland, Oregon.

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. Farming is some of the most labor intensive, grueling work that I have ever done, and for the least amount of pay. The system that has existed up until now has been exploitative and demeaning for the thousands of workers who spend their days growing the food that keeps us alive. Our society would simply collapse without farm workers and it is up to you to finally, fairly compensate us for the extra work that we do to keep Oregonians and the world, fed.

It is not merely the salaries of farmworkers that will be impacted by the passing of this bill, our dignity is also at stake. The belief that the work we are doing is valued by our fellow citizens and lawmakers will make a huge difference in retention rates and fulfillment of employees. The sustainability of farm work depends on the willingness to put it into law that farm workers are deserving of adequate compensation for our extensive labor. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. This is the law for most other forms of employment, and there is no reason it should not apply to agricultural workers.

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,

Rebecca Stone

