



Oregon Just Transition Alliance

Date: February 7, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Joel Iboa, Oregon Just Transition Alliance

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation. Our Alliance is led by PCUN, Rogue Climate, Verde, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), OPAL Environmental Justice and Beyond Toxics. 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.

Frontline communities, including migrant, Latinx/communities of color are hit first and worst by the climate crisis. On top of the pandemic, as climate-fueled disasters increase, extreme weather events are impacting our communities' working conditions, health, safety and wallets. Oregon's roughly 80,000 farmworkers work for long periods of time even though their work conditions are dangerous and unsafe. For the past year, our farmworker communities have worked to feed Oregon families through a respiratory pandemic, wildfires, dangerous air qualities and deadly heat waves. Farmworkers shouldn't have to decide between putting food on the table and staying safe. We saw this with the labor day fires—farm workers in bandanas harvesting grapes while people took refuge in their homes from the smoke (the worst

air quality in the world). And we saw with the extreme heat last June, resulting in the tragic death of a farmworker, Sebastian Francisco Perez.

A just transition means ensuring that communities traditionally hurting the most are front and center, leading the way for their communities. It means paying workers for the time they put in. It means ensuring the people who put food on our tables are compensated and cared for. The rest of us already have the granted right to overtime pay. It's time for farmworkers to have that right too.

Farmworkers are essential. They are essential for our economy, and essential humans in our community. Everyone deserves to be paid fair wages for their labor.

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,

Joel Iboa
Executive Director
Oregon Just Transition Alliance