

February 1, 2022

Subject: Yes to HB 4002, Farmworker Overtime.

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

My name is Nacia Castaneda, I live in Washington County in Oregon. I am in favor of Farm Workers Overtime Pay (FOT) and I am respectfully asking you for your support on this bill; HB 4002.

HB 4002 allows farmworker to begin receiving overtime pay like any other employee in the United States who works more than 40 hours a week. The bill states it would take three years in order for farm workers to receive overtime pay after working 40 hours a week. Even though I personally think this should not have to take three years to become effective, the adjustment would slowly begin appropriately compensating farmworkers for the number of hours they work each week.

I personally have not worked in the fields picking or doing any sort of farm work. I do vaguely remember my parents taking me and my siblings to a friend's field where we picked blue berries. I was a young child and for me it was an experience that allowed me to value and respect the hard work these people do every day. We had to wake up very early and pick the berries under the hot sun. I think we did that for a few days. After that I learned that people's hands often get stained because of how much and how long they work in picking berries. Their entire body is compromised under the weather and in the same position for very long periods of time.

I strongly believe this proposal will lead to positive change for farm workers. The bill will immensely benefit the quality of life of farmworkers and their families. We have taken for granted their hard work and it is now just and necessary to respect, value and be grateful for all the people that do the hard work in the fields. We need to recognize and appreciate those that have suffered and died from the working conditions in the fields. We need to support and protect the farmworkers and their families. It is now the time to make amends and support the people that make it possible for us to have a meal on our table. For these reasons and many more, I support bill HB 4002.

I am hopeful that you will support this bill as well to ensure farmworkers are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor. I thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

*Nacia Castaneda*