

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Tara Kroft
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime,

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

My name is Tara Kroft, and I live in Salem

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 grew up in Forest Grove Oregon and many of my friend's parents were farmworkers. I saw first hand how the over working and unfair treatment of farmworkers affected my friends' families. The exclusion of farmworkers in overtime pay is an unfair and racist exclusion. Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers should be treated humanely, especially after seeing how hard farmworkers have worked for Oregon during the COVID-19 pandemic. My only complaint of the bill is that the implementation of the bill is too slow. This bill should have been passed years ago and it needs to be implemented faster than five years.

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,

Tara Kroft
Student at Willamette University