

Submitter: Laura Kelly
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Date: 02/08/22
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Laura Kelly
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Laura Kelly, and I live in Salem, OR. 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 care about farmworkers because they provide crucial services to our Oregon community, and they deserve to be compensated the same as other Oregon workers. The quality of life of farmworkers decreases dramatically when they are forced to work more hours to meet basic standards of living. With overtime pay, farmworkers would be compensated for their time and wouldn't have to spend as many hours laboring. This would allow them more time to spend with their families and participate in other important and enriching life activities, which all human beings deserve.

There is no reason why farmworkers should be excluded from overtime pay when the majority of Oregon workers are eligible to receive it. Farmworkers have been excluded from crucial policies such as minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and it is time to make a change. Farmworkers are not second-class workers. They deserve to be treated humanely and in accordance with the rest of Oregon 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,

Laura Kelly