

February 8, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Daysi Bedolla Sotelo
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Daysi Bedolla Sotelo and I live in Salem Oregon. I am writing on behalf of myself as the oldest child of a household who has seen my parents work many hours in the agricultural world to be able to provide for me and my siblings.

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. They deserve this pay for their hard work and everything they do for Oregon.

As the oldest daughter I have seen how hard my parents work everyday. They get up early in the mornings and do not make it home until the evenings. I have seen my parents body deteriorate and not get enough benefits for their work. Extending overtime pay for farmworkers means that when my parents are sick they can go to a doctor without being afraid of the bill. It means that they do not have to wait until they are in an emergency to seek services because they can't afford it.

Farmworker overtime means better access to be able to afford healthcare services but also less stress on families who for years have been making ends meet. As the daughter of farmworkers I see this as a sign of love for our communities and care for a population that brings so much into our tables everyday. This means that my siblings can also have support to seek higher education and that my parents can have money for their retirement when they are ready.

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,

Daysi Bedolla Sotelo
Salem, OR