

Submitter: Prudence Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

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.

Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. They are the backbone of our economy: the skilled workers who plant our fields and harvest our crops.

Overtime pay law was created to discourage employers from overworking employees, and keeping them in a constant state of economic insecurity. Before 1938, employers overworked workers even to the point of death. Exclusion from overtime pay requires farmworkers to work many hours without having time--or resources--to devote to their families, their communities, or their own aspirations.

It is time for Oregon to join several other states in ending this racist practice of excluding agricultural workers from overtime pay. To do otherwise is both unjust and immoral.

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,  
Prudence Roberts