

February 8, 2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Anna Seahill

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Anna Seahill 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.**

There are a multitude of reasons why farmworkers deserve overtime pay relating to equality and justice, health and wellness, quality of life and economic stability.

Looking to equality and justice, farmworkers have been denied rights and protections for too long and have consequently been treated as second-class workers. In reality, farmworkers are essential and should thus be treated with respect and receive fair compensation.

Taking into account health and wellness, overtime pay laws function as a protection from the overworking of employees which can have negative health effects and lead to reduced life expectancies.

Quality of life would improve for farmworkers as well since the lack of overtime pay means farmworkers have little time for other activities and cannot spend much time with their families.

Finally, farmworkers would benefit economically as they are deserving of a living wage and are currently some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon, with a median annual income of \$28,000.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 unfairly left out farmworkers. Remember, it is never too late to do the right thing and end this exclusion.

For these reasons and many more, 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,

Anna Seahill
Community Member