



Date: 02/08/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Zaira Sanchez

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

My name is Zaira Sanchez, and I am an Emergency Relief Organizer for the UFW Foundation and I live in Hermiston Oregon. The UFW Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides critically needed resources and engages farmworkers in advocacy efforts around systemic change to break the cycle of poverty. 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.

Since 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act used race as the basis for exempting farm workers from overtime pay. This exemption has denied farm workers equal health and safety protections, despite working in such a dangerous industry. Currently, farm workers are working on unequal terms. They continue to work long hours in extremely hot and cold temperatures, are exposed to harmful pesticides, chemicals, smoke, and even operate hazardous machinery and equipment, all while in the middle of a pandemic. Without the labor of our farm workers, our nation would go hungry.

It is time for Oregon to join the historic change made in five other states. It is critical that we eliminate the exclusion of any agricultural workers from receiving the basic right to overtime pay that they deserve. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zaira Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zaira Sanchez
Emergency Relief Coordinator
UFW Foundation