

Submitter: Rebecca Pearson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Rebecca Pearson, Rogue Action Center
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Rebecca Pearson, and I work with the Rogue Action Center in Southern Oregon.

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.

As you know, Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. It's past time to ensure that all members of our community are provided the same rights as other workers.

In the Rogue Valley the air fills with smoke every summer often reaching hazardous levels, sometimes for days. This exacerbates the harsh working conditions that many Farmworkers already face. They deserve a living wage to support their lives and families.

Farmworkers are among the lowest paid workers in our state. Overtime pay at 40 hours a week would ensure that Farmworkers are able to care for their loved ones by reducing overwork, allowing more time for other priorities and lifting many out of poverty.

Everyone deserves fair pay for a day's work. Farmworkers are no exception. 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,

Rebecca Pearson

Field Director & Interim Co-Director
Rogue Action Center