

Submitter: Allison Silverstein  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor  
Measure: HB4002

Date: 02/07/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Allison Silverstein

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime,

House bill 4002

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

My name is Allison Silverstein, and I live in Salem and attend Willamette University. 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.

I am originally from San Diego, California and have driven i5 from San Diego all the way through Oregon many times, and seen all of our amazing productive farm land, and a lot of people working to make that land productive on the coldest mornings and the hottest afternoons. They work physically hard jobs more hours than anyone would happily work because there is no system to discourage employers from overworking them. This bill would be a big step towards greater health for farmworkers, and a big step for human rights in the US. Farmworkers do the hard work to keep Oregon fed, and they have a right to get protections from minimum wage laws, child labor laws, and overtime pay from the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Farmworkers currently have the lowest median income in Oregon; they deserve a living wage to pay to live here because we expect them to work here. Washington and California have farmworker overtime bills, and if Oregon does not catch up, we will lose them to places willing to pay them fairly, leaving Oregon's productive farmland under manned and unproductive.

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,  
Allison Silverstein