Dear Members of the Committee on Business & Labor,

My name is Paulita. Paula for those who are unable to pronounce my name correctly. I am to inform you that this will damage Oregon's already weaken agricultural workforce. My eldest son and my husband are farm labor contractors, and have 40 all year long workers, and during the harvest season, jump up to 500 employees. Paying OT will bankrupt our local farmers who are already struggling and many of Oregon's farm labor contractors. Not all farm labor contractors go over and beyond to make sure their employees are paid fairly. The faces we get are often of shock when we share they pay over minimum wage. During the heatwave, they went out of their way to make sure all workers had access to fresh drinkable water, they had to push them out of the fields when it 80 degrees by 10a and STILL PAID them a FULL DAY. They called throughout those deadly heated days to make sure they were okay, and offered our home to have them in AC if they didn't have access to it.

When was the last time any of you went out to work in the field? Hell Tina Kotek laughed when I asked her via social media if she'd spend a few days during the harvest season with my workers. This is NOT a low skill job. If there was an Olympic event for farming/harvesting/picking California, Washington and Oregon would actually be ahead for the first time, instead of always being last for economic disaster and the laughing stock of the nation for our damaging laws.

What many of you in these elected positions are failing to see, comprehend and understand, is that many of these workers who work 45 hours a week and are being paid already at $14-$16 an hour. They claim 8-10 dependents and claim they are married, when they are not. In short, they find ways to cheat the system, and as employers we let them know it's illegal and when they file taxes they will have to prove all of this.

Let's say you, your spouse, your 18 year old, 19, & 20 year old are all working working for a farm labor contractor. The parents tell their kids are instructed to put down that they are married and claim 8 dependents. Payday arrives. each of you receive a check for your hours of 47.5hrs x $14. that's $665. $17 Fed w/h. $41.23 social security, $9.64 Medicare $8.93 state w/h and 40.67 for SIT (OR). Net pay is $587.53 for the week. This family in ONE WEEK already has over $2900. In a month that is over $11,000! Hell I don't even bring home $2900 a month after taxes and I work for the damn state of Oregon! Let that sink in! Many of the employees share they do this so that they can work a short while in the states and then go back home

to their country where they live very comfortable and do not have to work for nearly 9 months of the year before returning. The employees who

The average farmer has to make IQF to be paid the full price that the cannery is paying. Road Warriors don't care about that. They do not follow the rules. They pick and harvest dirty. Thus the farmer loses pay for their product for having too many stems, too many greens or lots of dirt. Let's not forget that fuel for farm equipment has more than tripled in price, and due to all of OHA restrictions with covid, and many of the handouts being given by Oregon, many have chosen not to work, thus making the workface smaller. We've have spent $1000's of extra dollars to provide PPE, while the consumer demands more (much like what this administration does to our state employees) from a smaller workforce that isn't available.

Please stop using the "god savior complex" that many here have. This is where most white people/white passing folks think they know best for our communities, when they know nothing. Or what we would call the No Sabo group. Latinos who have been whitewashed into thinking that all manual labor work is low skill and uneducated. We have some of the smartest folks in agricultural field. I invite each of you to spend a few weeks with them working.