



Date: February 9, 2022
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Coua Xiong, APANO
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Coua Xiong and I am writing on behalf of APANO to express our support of farmworker overtime. APANO unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development, and cultural work. We support the workforce in Asian and Pacific Islander communities, particularly those in the Jade District.

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, we have advocated for essential workers through relief aid and small business support. We have also partnered with community organizations to stand up mutual aid programs that support essential workers who are excluded from government support. Not only do workers need additional support during a public health crisis, they also need to be guaranteed fair pay for their labor, which includes overtime pay. **Farm workers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.**

As some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year, farm workers have experienced disproportionate negative impacts, all of which has heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being denied rights to overtime pay is inhumane and a robbery of workers' labor.

Exclusion from overtime pay requires farmworkers to work many hours without having time to do other things, including caring for and spending time with their families. Farm workers deserve a work balance that allows for a quality of life that other workers have.

Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so. **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,

Coua Xiong
Interim Advocacy and Civic Engagement Director
APANO