

Submitter: Justin Diller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Oregon has a long and unfortunate history of legislating discrimination starting from the drafting of our state constitution. If we want to create a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive Oregon we must be relentless in our effort to correct the mistakes of the past and repair the damage and harm it has caused. Oregon's food production and distribution system is anchored by migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, yet these essential workers are excluded from overtime pay. I believe that farmworkers deserve to be treated the same as all other workers. Extending overtime pay for Oregon's farmworkers is necessary to improve their economic security and decrease food insecurity. Throughout the pandemic, catastrophic fires and hazardous air quality levels, farmworkers continued to work to support Oregon's multibillion dollar agricultural industry and keep our food systems afloat. In March of 2020, we began calling these folks essential. Let's show them that we meant it by ensuring that they can be paid fairly for the essential work they do. Oregon is behind other states in providing protections and overtime pay to the essential migrant and seasonal workers that our food system depends on. We need to pass Farmworker Overtime as soon as possible so we can all emerge stronger.