

Date: 2/23/2022

To: Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime

From: Abi Mavity

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

Hello Co-Chairs Holvey and Taylor, and Members of the Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime

My name is Abi and I am a student at Portland State 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. If this compensational pay is not offered, then farmworkers should be able to leave their work without repercussions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, farmworkers especially have been the backbone of our agricultural needs and continued to work through unsafe conditions for minimal pay. Even after they were declared essential workers in the pandemic, their pay was not reflective of their work. 37% of farmworkers in the nation are undocumented immigrants. Undocumented workers in the US are usually barred from accessing resources like SNAP, TANF, and housing benefits, yet they are paid poverty wages and would greatly benefit from access to those resources.

The current bill has a 4-year period to implement the 40-hour workweek, meaning that the maximum hours in a workweek will be 55 hours in 2023. This should be minimized to 2 years so that workers receive their pay sooner. I urge you to pass farmworker overtime with a shorter phase-in period in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Sincerely,

Abi Mavity