

Date: 2/24/2022

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime

From: Fox Schweiger

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

My name is Fox Schweiger. I am from Tennessee but now live in Salem, Oregon attending Willamette University. I care deeply about the rights of workers and think it is essential that farm workers, who work more dangerous and long hours than most Oregon citizens, are treated equally to all other workers. I am writing to you today in support of the farmworker overtime bill. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely. Those of us who are not farmworkers undoubtedly enjoy the fruits of their labor; **we all eat the foods they spend all day harvesting**. Still, farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so.

It is of utmost importance that HB4002 is passed. In fact, I think that **the bill does not go far enough** as it gives an extended transition period that ridiculously prevents workers from receiving overtime pay after 40 hours for five years. Farm workers deserve to be paid for their hours fairly since 1938 when other workers were allotted that right, so it is only fair that we start now. **Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of Oregon workers.**

Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely. I urge you to pass farmworker overtime (HB4002) in the 2022 Legislative Session to **ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor**. Thank you for your time, and I hope you take into consideration what is best for Oregon's essential farm workers.

Sincerely,

Fox Schweiger

Willamette University '24