

February 24, 2022

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime

Re: Support for HB 4002-Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Carolina Nava Diaz, and I live in Newberg and I work and teach in Woodburn.

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.

I want to make sure I support justice for farmworkers because my dad worked in the farms for more than ten years and he was living under the poverty line during those years. He was sending money for us in Mexico, so he was not able to have a car here and he was biking to the fields in Salem during all those years. Farmworkers are essential workers because without them we won't have food at our tables, yet they are not treated as such, are excluded from many basic workplace protections and do not earn overtime. Another problem that comes with not being paid livable wages is the need to be nomads. Some of my students live for some time in California, then come back to Oregon to be able to work for longer and that interrupts their education. If they had better salaries they could be saving money to be able to stay in one place the whole year.

I urge you to vote Yes on HB 4002 to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Sincerely,

Carolina Nava
Math teacher in Woodburn
Newberg Resident