

Submitter: Juan monje

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime

Measure: HB4002

### Testimony of Juan Monje

Good afternoon, gentlemen of the committee of the representatives of the house and labor. My name is Juan Monje, I am a community organizer for COMMUNITIES and I represented the workers and their families who live in the Gorge.

Serving the especially immigrant community that works in the Gorge and who suffer daily injustices in the workplace.

They have been essential workers who have worked during the pandemic and in unfavorable weather conditions such as heat waves or wildfires without protection from their workers and from the government.

Many say that farming is not a skilled job. This is a false narrative because not everyone can prune trees.

A bad cut can cause serious damage to the tree which means that the orchard owner loses a lot of money.

To prune properly, it is important to understand the proper techniques that apply to each tree.

Let me tell the testimony of one of the members of the community. When they lived in a cabin, they were very small houses and the bathrooms were shared and outside. The wife got pregnant last winter and when they found out they kicked them out of the cabins overnight.

They had nowhere to live, their friends found them a house where the windows were broken, the snow was falling and it was so cold, and she, pregnant, cannot be forgotten.

That is why I want them to be paid overtime for all the injustices they suffer and not in five years but in three.