

Date: 02.24.2022

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime

From: **Justina Romo/Latino Network**

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 Justina Romo, I live in Portland and I am writing on behalf of farmworkers and families of farmworkers all throughout Oregon.

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. Before 1938, employers had the ability to overwork employees to the point of death. As a result, thankfully, the Overtime pay law was created in hopes to provide better working conditions for employees. Unfortunately, overtime pay protections have not been extended to farmworkers for over 84 years. We, the Latine Community, have had countless members of our community, fathers, mothers, uncles and aunts dying in those fields just to provide their family basic human rights. We must extend overtime pay protections to farmworkers TODAY. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. Farmworkers and their families deserve more time together, to tend to other responsibilities, to have meaningful relationships with each other, instead of spending most of their life at work. With a median income of \$28,000 a year it should be a cause of concern that Farmworkers who put food on our table everyday struggle to put food on their own table without it impacting all other aspects of basic human needs. Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely.

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,

**Justina Romo**  
**Youth Leadership Coordinator**  
**Latino Network**