



Testimony in Support of HB 4002

Date: 2/24/2022

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime

From: Oregon Working Families Party

Re: Support for HB 4002-Farmworker Overtime

Chair Holvey and Taylor, Members of the Committee

My name is Danita Harris, I am the Interim State Director of the Oregon Working Families Party, a minor party here in Oregon that believes in working toward an economy that works for everyone. We are a multiracial, multigenerational home for a populace of working-class Oregonians that stretches across the state. On behalf of the Oregon Working Families Party, I urge you to vote yes on HB 4002 and to pass it out of committee unanimously.

Over the last 2 years, farmworkers have braved a pandemic, wildfires and heatwaves to put food on our tables. They work long hours in grueling conditions, but have been denied one of the most basic workers' rights, overtime pay.

We believe that all workers deserve the same protections and rights. The exclusion of farmworkers from overtime pay was a compromise made to appease Southern landowners to pass the New Deal, at the expense of Black farmworkers. Decades later, this racist exclusion still impacts our most vulnerable workers and disproportionately affects Latinx workers.

Without fail Oregon farmworkers brave harsh conditions and ensure that agricultural products are in homes across the county. Without these workers Oregon would suffer immensely.

Oregon Working Families Party is in solidarity with farm workers across the state and we urge the committee's support on HB 4002 during this legislative session, it is time to overturn this racist policy.

Thank you,