



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 4002 A FARMWORKER OVERTIME

To: Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime
From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
Date: February 24th, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4002 and the -A7 amendment. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon, representing workers from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, manufacturing and healthcare. We are a diverse group of workers who take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

UFCW 555 strongly supports farmworkers receiving overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. HB 4002 A is currently the only legislative avenue that gets farmworkers to an equitable overtime system.

Farmworkers are essential workers who have continued to show up for work despite facing a respiratory pandemic, wildfires, winter storms, and deadly heat waves. They are doing dangerous work in one of the largest sectors of our state economy, they are essential in feeding families across Oregon, and they deserve to be compensated fairly for their time.

Agricultural work is recognized as the occupation most likely to have mandatory overtime, with farmworkers commonly performing up to 16 hours of work per day. Routinely working long hours contributes to fatigue and sleep issues, and the onset and progression of heart disease; stroke; diabetes; depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation; as well as increased risk of work-related injury. We must afford farmworkers the same rights and protections as other workers in Oregon.

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • ufcw555.org



HB 4002 creates economic stability for a class of workers who have historically been excluded from basic labor standards such as minimum wage, collective bargaining rights, and overtime pay. With better wages, there will be an increase in consumer spending, especially in local businesses and rural communities, and better health outcomes and a longer life for Oregon's farmworkers.

Farmworkers must receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek as soon as possible. We urge you to end the long-standing racist exclusion of farmworkers from overtime protections and vote Yes on HB 4002.

Sincerely,

Madison Walters
Political Liaison
UFCW Local 555

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • ufcw555.org

