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February 24, 2022

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime
From: Rogue Climate
Re: Support for HB 4002-Farmworker Overtime

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

Rogue Climate strongly supports the passage of HB 4002, the Farmworker Overtime bill, because farmworkers deserve to be paid a living wage. Rogue Climate is a climate justice organization with offices in Phoenix and Coos Bay, Oregon with a mission to empower Southern Oregon & South Coast communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, seniors, and communities of color.

In 2020, the devastating Almeda Fire in Southern Oregon disproportionately impacted our migrant and immigrant communities, the majority of whom lived in mobile home neighborhoods, which were hit hardest by the fire. Many also distrust government assistance programs, rightfully so, because of the many years facing racism, discrimination, and profiling. A year and a half later, these migrant and immigrant households are still struggling to afford housing in the area on top of mounting bills and unclear rebuilding efforts for affordable housing.

Farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Those who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so.

Washington and California already have farmworker overtime laws on the books. If we don't begin to pay Oregon's skilled farmworkers what they deserve, they will take their abilities to where they are better compensated, leaving Oregon farms and family dinner tables behind. To remain competitive, Oregon farm owners and employers must pay overtime. This bill helps support those farmers, making the transition as easy and clear as possible.



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When farmworkers are well-compensated and respected, our whole food system is stronger and more resilient. We 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alessandra de la Torre".

Alessandra de la Torre
Advocacy and Programs Director
Rogue Climate