



February 24, 2022

Support for HB 4002, Farmworker Overtime

Co-Chairs Taylor and Holvey and Members of the Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime,

The 98 undersigned groups represent a cross section of unions, community-based organizations, advocacy groups and organizations, environmental and environmental justice organizations, faith leaders, and a coalition of family farms.

We write to you today in support of HB 4002 B Farmworker Overtime.

Farmworkers are essential. Farmworkers deserved to be treated humanely. Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights.

For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. The 2022 Legislative Assembly has the opportunity to right this historic wrong for the 86,240 farmworkers in Oregon.<sup>1</sup> For the past year, farmworkers have worked to feed Oregon families during a respiratory pandemic, catastrophic fires, dangerous levels of air quality, and deadly heat waves.

It is time for us to demonstrate our commitment to the economic security, health and well-being, and quality of life for all workers by extending overtime pay to Oregon farmworkers. We support legislative efforts to secure overtime protections beginning at 40 hours as soon as possible and including during harvest when farmworkers are worked the hardest. While we believe five years is a long time to wait, we are supportive of House Bill 4002 B. We also value policy solutions currently under consideration to help small and medium sized farms make the transition to overtime pay, including tax credits. While a lawsuit or rulemaking process might secure overtime pay more swiftly, we have trusted and invested in this process because of the deep value we place on the continued vitality of Oregon's agricultural sector and our interest in ensuring Oregon's family farms are supported throughout this transition.

We urge you to pass HB 4002 B in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AqCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1\\_Chapter\\_2\\_County\\_Level/Oregon/st41\\_2\\_0007\\_0007.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AqCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1_Chapter_2_County_Level/Oregon/st41_2_0007_0007.pdf)

350 Salem OR





Virginia Garcia Memorial  
HEALTH CENTER



Sunrise Rural Oregon

Sunrise PDX

Indivisible Clackamas

First Congressional UCC,  
Race Matters

Willamette-Laja  
Watershed Partnership