



Washington State Legislature

August 19, 2019

Director Joel Sacks
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries
Employment Standards Program
P.O. Box 44510
Olympia, WA 98504-4510

Dear Director Sacks:

We write to express our support for the ongoing rulemaking proposal to update overtime wage standards for Washington workers. Set over forty years ago, the current overtime wage standards are woefully inadequate. Between the 1930's and the 1970's, overtime pay ranged between two and three times the minimum wage. Back then, 60% of salaried workers nationally earned extra pay when they worked overtime hours. Now only seven percent do. Accordingly, this rulemaking is critical to Washington state.

Updating overtime protections allows workers more time with their families or more money in their paychecks for overtime work—or a little of both. This helps working families and our economy. Numerous studies also show that reducing work hours boosts productivity, improves safety, and lessens turnover.

Washington state has long been recognized as a pioneer for worker rights. We applaud the Department's extensive efforts over the last year to engage the worker and employer communities on the proposed rules.

We understand that there is broad agreement that the overtime wage standards need to be updated. The Department, workers, and employers spent extensive hours discussing the proposed rules. We support this movement by the Department to set the overtime threshold more in line with their historical levels and to have a long phase-in period that helps smaller businesses make a transition. While it is inevitable that not everyone will agree with the final rules, we are confident that the Department will follow all rulemaking guidelines and enact sound rules that will fairly update the current overtime standards.

Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Keiser".

Senator Karen Keiser
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
33rd Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Sells".

Representative Mike Sells
Chair, House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee
38th Legislative District



Senator Derek Stanford
1st Legislative District



Senator Bob Hasegawa
11th Legislative District



Senator Marko Liias
21st Legislative District



Senator Sam Hunt
22nd Legislative District



Senator Emily Randall
26th Legislative District



Senator Jeannie Darneille
27th Legislative District



Senator Steve Conway
29th Legislative District



Senator Claire Wilson
30th Legislative District



Senator Jesse Salomon
32nd Legislative District



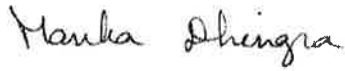
Senator Rebecca Saldana
37th Legislative District



Senator John McCoy
38th Legislative District



Senator Liz Lovelett
40th Legislative District



Senator Manka Dhingra
45th Legislative District



Senator Mona Das
47th Legislative District



Senator Patty Kuderer
48th Legislative District



Representative Shelley Kloba
1st Legislative District



Representative Marcus Riccelli
3rd Legislative District



Representative Timm Ormsby
3rd Legislative District



Lisa Callan
5th Legislative District



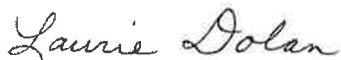
Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self
21st Legislative District



Representative Strom Peterson
21st Legislative District



Representative Beth Doglio
22nd Legislative District



Representative Laurie Dolan
22nd Legislative District



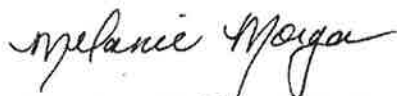
Representative Sherry Appleton
23rd Legislative District



Representative Jake Fey
27th Legislative District



Representative Christine Kilduff
28th Legislative District



Representative Melanie Morgan
29th Legislative District



Representative Steve Kirby
29th Legislative District



Representative Kristine Reeves
30th Legislative District



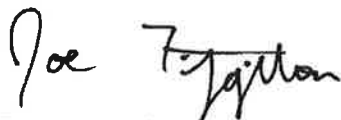
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32nd Legislative District



Representative Mia Gregerson
33rd Legislative District



Representative Tina Orwall
33rd Legislative District



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
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Representative Eileen Cody
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Representative Jared Mead
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Representative Roger Goodman
45th Legislative District



Representative Javier Valdez
46th Legislative District



Representative Debra Entenman
47th Legislative District



Representative Vandana Slatter
48th Legislative District



Representative Monica Jurado Stonier
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