

Hello Representative Findley and the House Rules Committee,

Family farms are the backbone of Oregon agriculture and also feed the 99% of the population that lives off farm. Keeping family farms viable is critical to feeding you personally and a good portion of the rest of America and the world.

We all are concerned with living in a clean healthy environment. But HB 4001 does not make our environment any cleaner. It just increases the costs on our ranch, perhaps disproportionately so, because we live in rural Eastern Oregon. Our distance to go anywhere is so much greater than those who live in the Willamette Valley, hence our ability to get our food to your plate has higher transportation requirements. Our profit margins are exceedingly slim most years. HB 4001 will substantially increase our costs on our fifth generation ranch. When an enterprise can't be profitable, it can't provide food for all non farm folks who want to eat three times a day. Thirty five days is too short a time to adequately consider HB 4001.

Concerns with the -12 amendment

The -12 amendment is the wrong approach at the wrong time. It makes HB 4001 even worse than the stand alone bill. It immediately caps carbon and drives up cost of food production without any ability to cover those costs. The Department of Environmental Quality doesn't have a background in agriculture or federal conservation programs, hence it is the wrong department to deal with this issue. Please be wary of unintended consequences! Food and fiber production is critical to all of us, just like a clean environment. It is a complicated and costly process to produce food and fiber, largely unknown to the urban population because the 1% does such an excellent job of providing for the 99%. Your grocery shelves aren't empty! We are efficient because we are largely owner operated food producers. That means we don't hire professional HR staff. The increased regulations and burdens of this program mean that we have less time to be out in the field. These regulations are expensive in increased office time as well as fuel taxes. AND nothing has changed about our environment! You still need to receive the healthy wholesome food we produce.

PLEASE vote NO on HB 4001 and the -12 amendment.

Thank you,

Susan Doverspike
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