

Dear Chair Barker,

Dear Chair Jeff Barker and Kathleen Taylor,

HB 3031 creates a new costly government-run, one-size-fits-all mandatory leave program that would be funded by all employers and employees through a new payroll tax.

With 32 weeks of paid leave, HB 3031 is one of the most aggressive family leave taxes under consideration in the country! A program of this size will likely over burden Oregon's farm families.

HB 3031 applies to employers with even just ONE employee! The bill offers no exemptions or accommodations for small or seasonal businesses. It's impractical for many of our small and family run farms.

Farmers and ranchers are still scrambling to comply with the state's paid sick leave law, minimum wage increases, retirement savings requirement, and the new and complex equal pay law. Now is NOT the time to pass an aggressive family and medical leave requirement that would further burden Oregon producers.

Every year the Legislature is making it more difficult to justify hiring more people. Please vote 'NO' on HB 3031. It's a cost that many farmers will be unable to afford.

Sincerely,

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