

Dear Chair Barker,

Senator Jack Winters
Representative Denyc Boles
Chair Jeff Barker
Chair Kathleen Taylor

My name is Lisa Stone, we are have a family owned second generation Christmas tree farm on the outskirts of Salem. We are asking you to Oppose HB 3031 whole heartedly!!

We, as farmers and business owners are extremely worried about what HB 3031 will do to us. As it is now, we run on pretty small margins and many years are barely making it. We do our best to maintain our employees and do the best for them as possible. However, with HB 3031, it is making it harder and harder to do so.

We are still trying to recover from Sick Time that is now mandated, from rising minimum wage, possible fuel increases/taxes, we can't afford this bill. We can't afford to pay benefits for an employee that is not present and hold a position open. Our Christmas Trees have a short time line we have to stick to, to get them to your homes on time.

We hire typically a couple hundred seasonal employees to harvest and get your Christmas Tree ready for you to put in your homes for Christmas Day. We need to get these trees harvested and ready to go in less than a two month window. Unfortunately, if we are holding jobs open for such an extended length of time we are unable to hire people to get your Christmas trees ready for your family!!

I am asking you to Oppose HB 3031. If nothing else, please please exclude Agriculture and season employment!! I want to be able to continue farming and pass the farm to our son, but this bill will not help to make that dream happen.

Thank You,

Lisa Stone
BTN of Oregon, Inc.