

Submitter: Flavia Franco  
On Behalf Of: Southern Oregon Food Solutions  
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Measure: HB4002

The food system is broken. Too much is wasted, and some in the system profit greatly (as in huge profit margins) while the people doing the work cannot afford to live locally, to feed their families or save for the future or send their kids to college. I understand the compromise that was made in order for the National Fair Labor Relations Act to Pass, but it is high time that the compromise gets rectified. Why should these people be getting such a raw deal for so long? What happened to equal treatment under the law?

The people who are making big profits need to take responsibility, adjust their business models so that every contributor in their supply chain is not being exploited. Otherwise, their profits and everything they stand for wears the stench of oppression. Supermarkets like Walmart and Safeway need to make sure these people make a living wage when they are working so hard. This legislation will send a message. There are many things broken in our food system. The inequity that farmworkers have suffered for decades is one thing this legislature can begin to address.

Treating farmworkers with dignity and respect will change how they see themselves. They need to feel appreciated. Everyone eats, but how are we showing our gratitude for those who grow our food? We will have a better society if we leave no one behind.

We are in a climate crisis, and a drought and we are anxious about crop killing heat waves. It is not realistic to expect that food prices won't go up. It is also unfair to support the status quo just to keep prices down. In essence that would be forcing the worst off among us to pay for our inaction to prevent the climate crisis. It's not their fault that we've ignored the science for thirty to forty years.