

Submitter: Josh Robinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Members of the Committee On Business and Labor,

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony today. My name is Josh Robinson, my brother and I are 2nd generation nurseryman who own Robinson Nursery in McMinnville. We employ 100-150 employees and operate on 650 acres. I also have the privilege of serving as the Current OAN president. We both love what we do, and we show that by living out our mission statement of growing people and plants to change the world.

Trees are the best tool we have to fight climate change on a significant scale. We used a carbon calculator from the University of New Mexico (link at the bottom) and found out that if you take into account just 70% the trees we shipped out in our company's lifetime they would be actively sequestering 1.4 million vehicles worth of emissions and growing. To put it in a better perspective That's 1/3rd of the registered vehicles in Oregon.

If you play this movie forward, we would be forced to cap our hours at 40 per week. It would be highly likely that we would have to reduce our company's production. The result would be less of our world changing product to fight one of the biggest issues facing humanity.

We are growing people as well. We have a base pay of \$17.41 that's equal to \$36,000 a year. That is without considering our benefits of paid vacation, 401k match, health, dental, and life insurance, as well as a generous bonus program. We also have a learning center for continued education.

One of the biggest issues with HB4002 is that it will backfire If the intention is to increase take home pay for frontline workers. We know from a 3rd party economic study (Highland study) that take home pay will decrease.

What we produce is a commodity and is grown in other states with less operating costs that are closer to major markets. Oregon stands out because of its quality however the market will not tolerate additional price increases. Consider this analogy, at some point aren't you going to go with Wonder bread over Dave's Killer bread when the price disparity is too high. We are at that breaking point. A 3-gallon tree from us is \$24 the same tree goes for \$15 in Tennessee.

Can we find some middle ground to compromise on the threshold of 40 hours?

Sincerely,

Josh Robinson

Oregon Association of Nurseries President

Robinson Nursery

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