

Submitter: Rob Galyen
On Behalf Of: Deschutes Basin Farms
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Passing HB 4002 would be a travesty to our Farm, our Community and our State!
-If passed

- 1) Our farm would immediately implement a 40 hr/week cap, thereby reducing the benefit package to ALL employees
 - skilled ag labor is limited
 - on-farm labor has increased 41% in last 10 years!
- 2) Would place Oregon farms at a disadvantage to others competitive farms across the nation
- 3) 91% of Oregon farmers indicated that they could NOT absorb the costs of mandatory overtime pay as mandated in other states

The economics of agriculture provides no other option except reducing labor hours to control costs by investing in machines to harvest crops; transitioning to less labor-intensive crops that require fewer workers; reducing worker hours to avoid accruing overtime; hiring a second shift to avoid accruing overtime, and even moving operations outside of Oregon altogether.

The Northwest has seen a 70% increase in bankruptcy filings among farm operations compared to a national average of just 8%. The radical increase in labor costs will expedite the loss of Oregon's family farms and ranches.

Employers have been candid about the devastation that paying overtime in Oregon will cause. Mandating overtime pay for agriculture is likely to have the opposite result of what is intended, ultimately harming workers. Farmworkers and farm and ranch families must have the opportunity to work together on an informed policy that supports all of those engaged in agriculture..... not just those of the Metropolitan areas.

Let our voices be heard!

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