

House Bill 4002  
2/7/22

Legislators:

Oregon Farmers and Ranchers only stand to lose on every front if this bill is passed as written. We must find a workable compromise that supports Oregon agriculture and our workers. I know that many of my peers and Legislators that do support Oregon agriculture have proposed cooperative solutions that provide both stability and functionality to the outcome of this bill.

Among these solutions would be giving Oregon Agriculture employers the ability to include the value of government mandated expenses for their employees to the employee salary calculations. For example, in the H2A worker contract the employer must provide room and board (housing and food) for their workers at no expense to the worker. Since this is a government mandated expense it could be calculated into the workers salary since both are a benefit that would otherwise fall on the worker to pay on their own. The majority of fixed housing situations for Ag workers are worth at least \$800.00 to \$1400.00 a month if the worker had to rent housing on his/her own. Food costs run \$400.00 to \$600.00 a month per worker. Calculating this cost into the worker's salary, which is the right thing to do since it is a legitimate cost to the Farm or Ranch, and accurately reflects the real value of the workers total compensation.

Please take time and provisional actions to allow for re-wording of this bill to save the future of Oregon Agriculture. As State Legislators you have been elected by your constituents to listen and hear every side of the issues brought before you that impact their lives here in Oregon. For every action there is a reaction, as the saying goes, the reaction to this bill as written will have long term and far-reaching negative impacts on our State.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sandra K. Campbell

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