

Submitter: Matt McElligott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

I along with my family raise cattle in rural Eastern Oregon. We hire seasonal help during the busiest times of year. The raising of livestock and the related work on a ranch is much different than a 9 to 5 job in town. Whether tending to livestock in the summer months on the range or feeding and calving daily as we are now, cattle require care on a 24/7 schedule. Birthing and health issues are not scheduled in 8 hour increments, when they need care we must be there to provide it or the animals will suffer. Removing the agricultural overtime exemption that is on the books right now will hurt the ag employer and employee. Ranches such as mine can not set prices for their cattle sold. Those prices are set by supply and demand market forces. The only recourse we have when our costs increase are to look for cost areas to cut back. Labor will be the first area to look at. Full time workers with families to support will be restricted to no more than or less than 40 hours per week. Health, housing and food benefits for workers will be reduced or eliminated to help employers pay for the addition costs associated with this bill. There is a great economic divide that exists between urban and rural Oregon workers right now, this bill will increase that divide not decrease it.

For these reasons listed I strongly oppose this bill as written.

Sincerely,
Matt McElligott