

Submitter: Catherine Baltzor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

My husband and I raise cattle and hay in Harney County and have done so for over 30 years. Even if an agricultural entity doesn't have laborers, they will feel the negative effects of this bill if it passes. When labor costs increase, so does the cost of the end product, which will be felt by every consumer. Those of us in agriculture realize this isn't a 40 hour a week industry. There are times during calving, haying, gathering and processing when you work more than 40 hours to accomplish putting the product up correctly or gathering and working the cattle. There are so many variables to work with in our industry that are beyond our control, weather being one of them.

Agriculture contributes greatly to the economic success of Oregon. If this bill passes, I fear we will lose many small farms, ranches and businesses. We have seen many businesses move to other states already due to our less than friendly taxing of businesses in our state. With the horrific drought, wildfires, and pandemic the past two years, I really think this is a poor time to create even more burden on our agricultural producers.

I strongly oppose this bill and think it is not even appropriate to consider this bill in a short session, as it does not constitute an emergency.