

Submitter: L Duda

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Legislators -

As an agricultural worker I strongly oppose HB4002.

Passing this bill will make my earnings decrease. Instead of allowing me to work long hours, the farms will hire more temp workers to take the extra hours and hold me to the maximum allowable hours I can work. Which will decrease what I bring home.

This is a poorly thought-out bill put forth by people who do not understand the nature of farming. Farm products do not have the normal free market compensation. Farmers get what the buyers say they will pay, they are 'price takers'. No farmer gets to tell the commodity buyers what they want for their wheat, they HAVE to take what they are paying – or they can't sell their wheat. The canneries tell the farmers what they will pay for their food crops. Increasing the costs to farmers will incentivise them to find ways to automate (and that will make me lose my job or cut my hours) or put them out of business (which will for sure make me lose my job). Costs to farmers just this year have skyrocketed due to the unprecedented inflation and yet they will make no more for their crops than they did last year

We live in a beautiful and fertile area here in the Willamette Valley. Some of the best ground for growing food is here. Let us continue to grow things here. I want to eat food grown here where we have rules for safe chemical use and not from countries whose rules are more lax or non-existent.

Passing this bill will make us food insecure, dependent on other places or countries for our very survival. If you have learned anything from the pandemic it should be that we need to be self-sufficient not dependent on others as we cannot count on them.

When I read the proposed bill, I am struck by what the fines are going to go to –  
Section 6, 4, a – Bureaucracy – implementing the tax with no limit on that.

When that is paid

Section 6, 4, b – Common school fund, and finally

Section 6, 4 c – Breastfeeding Mother Friendly Employer Project? As a former breastfeeding mother, I am wondering what this money is going to go for – Nursing Bras, leak pads? Employer provided breast pumps? Maybe salve for sore nipples?

What do b and c have to do with overtime?

For the sake of my job – vote NO.

A voting constituent.

L. Duda