

February 8, 2022

RE: HB 4002

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Bonham and Vick-Chair Grayber,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 4002.

As a person who has grown up on a farm, lived my life on a farm, and owns a farm – I oppose HB 4002.

This bill, on the surface, reads as though it would help the agricultural employee. However instead, this bill would end up being detrimental to the employees themselves by restricting their hours. The farmer can't simply raise the price of their product just because a bill passed in the legislature, and that's where the problem begins. Farm product pricing is set by the market and since we can't raise prices on our product then we have to save money in other ways, that will begin with less hours available to the employee because we wouldn't be able to afford the overtime pay. When Federal law passed in 1938 for workers to receive overtime pay with farmworkers exempt, it was a time when the population was either a farmer or knew someone who was a farmer. The legislatures who authored this new law had firsthand knowledge of the inner workings of a farm, and they knew the importance of helping the farmer grow the food we eat. This bill does not show that same knowledge.

This bill, if passed, would create a domino effect that would result in many farms going out of business. Look at the recently passed overtime bill in California which has caused massive issues, and this bill HB 4002 is even more radical than the California bill. Only a few states have passed overtime for farmworker bills and the results haven't turned out the way it was intended.

This bill does not take into consideration the fact that farms do not operate in a normal 5 day 9-5 work week because that's not how Mother Nature works.

This bill lumps all Oregon farms into one pot, it does not take into consideration that over 200 different agricultural commodities are produced in Oregon. Each one is unique and diverse in the way they are grown and produced, and shouldn't be thrown into one bill as if they are all the same.

Did you know;

The price of Milk per cwt in December 2020 was \$19.70, below December 2012 price of \$22.10?

The price of Potatoes per cwt in January 2017 was \$7.90, below January 2011 price of \$9.40?

The price of Hay per ton in January 2021 was \$194, below January 20 price of \$221?

The price of Spring Wheat per bushel in January 2019 was \$5.94, below January 2012 price of \$7.09?

All stats from the Oregon Department of Agriculture using last recorded years.

Farmers today often make less money for their crop, yet the price of producing their crop has grown.

I ask that you **vote no** on HB 4002.

Lori Boshart