

Submitter: Dane Klindt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

As a fruit grower in the mid Columbia I oppose HB4002. This bill while may have good intentions is only going to hurt the people it is meant to help. Agriculture is a unique industry that is quickly being taken over by corporations. In farming we must work with the seasons, so harvest may mean 60 hours a week for a 2 month period. Much of this is hand harvested crops with most earning \$25 up to \$50 (piece rate) an hour because of the skills they have. During the off months many farmers work hard to create jobs to insure families have a steady income. Many farms provide housing and most utilities at no expense to the employee.

HB4002 will cause a fundamental shift in how local farms work with employees.

Farmers will be forced to maximize work hours and reprioritize jobs. With rising costs and stagnant crop prices because of imports many farm workers are going to have to pursue second jobs to meet their current income.

As for the small farmer they will be eliminated by rising costs and bureaucratic red tape. Farming is a lifestyle that cannot be explained to a person who has not experienced it, weather, labor, markets, costs are something farmers cant control, while it is our job to feed the world.

This lifestyle is one that includes not only the farmer but the farmworker, I am very lucky to be a part of it. HB4002 will be another ruling that will take a lifestyle away and drive us into a more undiversified corporate system that will care less about the people and the land and more about profits.

Dane Klindt