

Date: 02/08/2022

To: House Committee on Business & Labor

From: Macy Goehring – Santucci Ranch & Turf

RE: Oppose HB 4002

My name is Macy Goehring, and I am an employee at Santucci Ranch & Turf in Prineville, Oregon. I am writing regarding the HB 4002, and to express my sincere opposition to agriculture overtime. In this industry it is nearly impossible to regulate the hours, we have no set hours due to many factors. These factors include the weather, water, livestock, and many other factors. During the spring and summer, we are working more hours due to farming and harvesting, as well as the livestock. These hours are determined by the factors listed above, factors that we as farmers and ranchers cannot control. Some weeks we may work longer hours than others if that's what it takes to get the job done. We work longer hours in the spring and summer because they are the busiest time of the year for farming and ranching, but also so we can support ourselves throughout the slower winter months where we are working fewer hours.

Enforcing overtime will only cause my hours as well as the many other employees, farmers, and ranchers in the agriculture industry to have a cap on our hours of 40 or less hours per week. Not only would this effect my overall income for our busy months, and the year, but also will affect the support I can give to myself throughout the slower months. It could also cause my coworkers as well as myself to have to look for a second job to supplement our income or have to leave our jobs at the ranch to find a new full time job in order to support ourselves and our families.

Not only will this affect us in the agriculture industry, but it will affect our community members as well as the members of other communities across the state. By cutting back on our hours it will cause a decrease in production which means a decrease in the quantity of products farmer and rancher's supply. A decrease in the quantity would then cause an increase in the price of the product produced, meaning consumers will have to pay an increased price for the products they purchase. Over the past couple of years our water supply has decreased tremendously due to drought, already causing a struggle the agriculture community. We feel that we already have enough working against us with the factors that we cannot control.

Since this is a factor that can be controlled, we really hope that the right thing is done and the choice to protect the agriculture industry is protected from the devastation that HB 4002 would bring. It would be greatly appreciated by all in this industry if this bill was killed before it goes to the floor.

Sincerely,
Macy Goehring
Prineville, OR