

Submitter: Mary Anne Puhl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

Please vote NO on HB 4002.

We have two cranberry farms on the Southern Oregon Coast, near Bandon and Sixes. Our cranberry harvest lasts 6 to 8 weeks depending on the year.

During harvest season we often have to work more than 40 hours per week.

As happens with many farms located in rural Oregon, we have extreme problems getting workers for harvest. Approximately 30% of our very small population in this area are over 65 years of age and many of those of working age either have a job or cannot or do not want to work.

Due to our severe difficulties getting the harvest workers we need, it would be impossible to hire more workers for the additional hours we must work during harvest, forcing us to pay overtime to those few who will work.

Our harvest expenses and many of our farming expenses (i.e. fuel, fertilizer, packaging for our cleaned berries, trucking our berries to commercial freezers after cleaning, and freezer costs) have increased approximately 25% during the past two years.

Adding another layer of expense for overtime will be catastrophic as cranberry prices have already not kept pace with our other increased costs.

Please allow the continuation of the current laws that allow work over 40 hours per week for agricultural workers without overtime pay. Please VOTE NO for HB 4002.

Respectfully,

Mary Anne Puhl

Co-Owner

Cape Blanco Cranberries, PO Box 1365, Port Orford, OR 97465