



WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINE

TESTIMONY OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINERIES ASSOCIATION
ON HOUSE BILL 4002 – AGRICULTURAL WORKER OVERTIME
HOUSE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Bonham, Vice Chair Grayber, and Representatives
Boshart-Davis, Bynum, Cate, Evans, Fahey, George, and Salinas:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Willamette Valley Wineries Association (WVWA), which represents approximately 225 wineries and 75 associate members. The WVWA recognizes that our vineyard stewards—agricultural workers—are important partners of the Oregon wine community. We also recognize that agricultural worker overtime is a complex policy issue, and that Oregon's diverse agricultural businesses will be affected differently by the changes proposed in the bill.

Vineyard stewards are an essential element of Oregon's world-class wines. Quality winemaking starts in the vineyard. Like many specialty crops, much of wine-grape farming cannot be mechanized.

There is a history of unfair treatment of agricultural workers. In recent years the wine industry has made significant improvements in agricultural worker compensation. The WVWA believes we must continue this evolution to providing fair wages and benefits; HB 4002 would support those fair wages.

Agricultural businesses are key engines for Oregon's economic growth. Thus, we must provide fair compensation to attract and retain a talented agricultural workforce. Such actions are equitable, and they are required for the continued growth of our agricultural economy.

The WVWA supports HB 4002. The bill calls for a gradual implementation, allowing our member businesses time to adapt. Additionally, we appreciate the economic support of the included tax credit available to businesses making the transition. Having said that, we understand the complexity of the issue and the differing impacts it may have across Oregon's diverse agricultural sectors. We encourage the committee to continue to work collaboratively with interested parties to find common ground and create a solution that works for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Morgen McLaughlin
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