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On Behalf Of: GardenScape Nursery  
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor  
Measure: HB4002

:Good day, and thank you for allowing my to submit testimony. I did try to give live speak live, but was unable to continue to wait my turn. I left the session at 7:15, and was appalled at some on the things I heard. To bring race or a tragic death into the reasons to pass a bill made me uncomfortable. I also, heard testimony that stages median wage is 28 thousand a year, which I find that extremely difficult to believe. Not one of our farm workers make less than 35 thousand a year and to hear that many of them go to food banks because they don't make enough money to feed themselves is another statement I find very difficult to believe. All of our employees send hundreds of dollars back to their families in Mexico each month, and then chose to go to food banks to feed themselves.

I work for a small family owned nursery and farm and having to pay overtime is going to hurt only the workers if it is passed. We will be forced to cut everyone's hours to no more than 40 hours a week and the farm workers will suffer from it. We will have to look at more was to mechanize, just like the growers and farmers did in California. We current allow our employees to work 50 hours week in the off season to help them keep their income up as well. You heard testimony from Kyle Fessler, he stated, if overtime goes into effect we will change what we grow. Broccoli and Cauliflower and the two most labor intense food crops to harvest and they WILL STOP growing them. Who is that going to hurt...certainly not them, the workers. I am sure there are Farmers/Ag companies out there that will have no problem paying overtime, but why are they able too. Farm is paid full, equipment is paid in full? One thing I have seen in my short life of 55 years is that the government doesn't look that the big picture. I am sure on paper if appears forcing Ag overtime will put many more dollars into the workers pockets. Will it work in reality? NO, hours will be cut, employee sharing will happen and the workers will be forced to work multiple jobs just to make what they did before the governments big idea to come help.